Car-sized rocks roll down Mayon Volcano

STORY ON PAGE A7

Voter's Voice 2001 ELEKSYON
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INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2001 ★★ 64 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 156 ₱15

Why quick count is not quick at all

BY BLANCHE RIVERA, CYNTHIA BALANA, GLADYS TOLETE AND CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

THE Commission on Elections last night allowed the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) to obtain the seventh copy of the election returns, after Namfrel volunteers complained that they could not read the sixth

WHY/ A4

Unofficial returns give PPC 8-5 lead

AMA-SMART TALLY
as of 11:56 p.m., May 14

Rank	Candidate	Party	Votes cast
1	De Castro, Noli	(Ind.)	304,116
2	Flavier, Juan	(Lakas/PPC)	283,503
3	Drilon, Franklin	(Ind./PPC)	256,872
4	Osmeña, Serge	(PDP-L/PPC)	256,290
5	Arroyo, Joker	(Ind./PPC)	255,348
6	Magsaysay, R. Jr.	(Ind./PPC)	245,204
7	Pangilinan, Francis	(LP/PPC)	243,138
8	Angara, Edgardo	(LDP/PnM)	235,939
9	Villar, Manuel Jr.	(Ind./PPC)	234,516
10	Santiago, Miriam	(PRP/PnM)	229,556
11	Recto, Ralph	(Lakas/PPC)	222,646
12	Lacson, Panfilo	(LDP/PnM)	209,754
13	Ejercito-Estrada, Loi	(Ind./PnM)	204,362
14	Tañada, Wigberto	(LP/PPC)	204,051
15	Honasan, Gringo	(Ind./PnM)	203,307
16	Puno, Ricardo Jr.	(LDP/PnM)	195,802
17	Enrile, Juan Ponce	(Ind./PnM)	191,108
18	Monsod, Solita	(Aksyon/PPC)	178,704
19	Pagdanganan, Obet	(Lakas/PPC)	166,703
20	Mercado, Orlando	(Ind./PnM)	165,574
21	Herrera, Ernesto	(Lakas/PPC)	159,419

AMA-SMART/ A20

Senate race still too early to call

THE ADMINISTRATION'S People Power Coalition (PPC) took an early lead last night with eight of its senatorial candidates making it to the Magic 13 based on unofficial, partial returns.

Only four of the opposition's Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) and one independent candidate landed in the winning circle as of 11:56 last night.

Results of the unofficial quick count conducted by the AMA Group and Smart Communications showed that the winning PPC senatorial candidates were Juan Flavier (No. 2), Franklin Drilon, Sergio Osmeña III, Joker Arroyo, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan, Edgardo Angara, Manuel Villar, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Ralph Recto, Panfilo Lacson and Luisa Ejercito.

Noli de Castro, an independent who was adopted by the opposition's PnM, was No. 1 with 304,116 votes.

The four PnM candidates who landed in the Magic 13 were Angara, Santiago, Lacson and Ejercito.

But Paul Aquino, PPC campaign director, said it was too early to see any trend as poll officials had not even counted 1 percent of the total votes cast.

Aquino said a trend in the voting could only be seen after the Commission on Elections had counted 3 million votes. The Comelec will start the official count tomorrow.

UNOFFICIAL/ A21

OPPOSITES: Looking glum, former President Estrada casts his ballot at the Veterans Memorial Hospital in Quezon City; a gleeful President Macapagal votes in her hometown of Lubao, Pampanga. JOAN BONDOC

Comelec execs under fire for bungling polls

BY ROCKY NAZARENO, ARMAND N. NOCUM AND CARLITO PABLO

EVEN on Election Day, the Commission on Elections remained divided and washed dirty linen in public as former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod called on Congress to impeach poll officials for allegedly bungling the holding of the elections.

Monsod, husband of People Power Coalition senatorial candidate, Winnie, said violence and chaos marred the elections.

He said the Comelec had three years to prepare for the elections, but squandered it by engaging in squabbles and by pursuing failed programs that cost taxpayers more than P300 million.

"The Comelec was too preoccupied with too many wrong things and then they had intramural (squabbles)," Monsod told the INQUIRER when he accompanied his wife to the voting precinct in Dasmariñas Village, Makati.

COMELEC/ A6

GMA vs Erap: Who is winning?

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA, DONNA S. CUETO AND PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

THE TWO voters both seemed upbeat and confident that their respective candidates would win as they exercised their right to suffrage yesterday, but the similarity ended there.

While a relaxed and smiling President Macapagal-Arroyo voted on live television, her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, posed only for a government camera crew as other journalists were kept far away from his hospital presidential suite.

For a change, Ms Macapagal slept for an extra hour yesterday morning and was two hours behind schedule, while Estrada was reportedly up and raring to vote by 7:10 a.m.

Election workers set up separate voting booths in a room near Estrada's suite at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City, and brought special ballot boxes for him and his son Jinggoy.

There was one ballot box each for father and son because the two were not registered in the same precinct, said lawyer Jose Flaminiano.

A one-minute videotape taken by a government crew showed Estrada voting in the hospital room and smiling as an election worker applied indelible ink on his forefinger.

Before he marked in his ballot at 9:20 a.m., Estrada sat around drinking coffee for an hour, according to police who were present. They said Estrada and Jinggoy were ready to cast their votes much earlier, but had to wait for Flaminiano to arrive.

Another of Estrada's lawyers, Raymond Fortun, said the disgraced leader was voting

GMA/ A6

Polls 'generally peaceful'; turnout 85%

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA AND THE PDI BUREAUS

INCIDENTS of violence and the declaration of a failure of elections at points north and south marked yesterday's polls, but Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo described the exercise as "generally peaceful."

"It's not perfect, as in anything manmade. But compared to past elections, this (one) is okay," Benipayo said at a briefing held an hour after the close of the polling precincts at 3 p.m.

At 7:40 last night, Benipayo said the voter turnout was "roughly 85 percent."

Under the Omnibus Election Code, the Comelec may declare a failure of elections in the event of *force majeure*, violence and terrorism or fraud, but must set special elections within 30 days after the regular elections.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said she "would like to express elation over this poll exercise wherein more than 30 million Filipinos managed to vote in over 200,000 precincts."

He described it as an "amazing feat."

Earlier yesterday, Ophelia Valdez, spokesperson of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), said that based on initial field reports, voter turnout could reach 70-85 percent nationwide.

"The turnout is quite high because there is a high level of awareness among voters. Voting is a right and a duty. With what is happening in our country these days, nobody can afford to be indifferent," Valdez said.

The PPCRV, chaired by former Comelec Commissioner Haydee Yorac and with 462,000 volunteers, is covering 58 dioceses nationwide.

It has been accredited by the

POLLS/ A18

Markets seen to move up after polls

LOCAL financial markets are expected to strengthen today following the generally peaceful and orderly conduct of the national election, according to analysts.

"The stock market will move sideways with an upward bias for the next two weeks. The run-up, however, will be tempered in anticipation of the final results," said Helen Alvarez, research chief of All Asia Securities.

"I think the main index will be up 20 points (on Tuesday)," Alvarez said.

The key stock index closed 2.84 percent up at 1,484.83 points on Friday. Markets were closed on Election Day.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza told Reuters debt yields at the government auction on Tuesday should drop by 10 basis points due to combined effects of the peaceful election and hopes for rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

The elections for 13 seats of the 24-member Senate, all 262 seats in the House of Representatives and thousands of local posts were seen

MARKETS/ A18

Poll cheats devise new tricks

BY JEROME ANING AND GERALDFORD P. TICKE
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GULLIBLE voters in Manila and Palawan learned the same lesson yesterday and Sunday: selling your vote does not pay.

Western Police District agents rounded up 17 people in Sta. Mesa, Manila, after they were caught distributing fake

POLL/ A19

72 DEAD

2001 elections turning out to be the bloodiest since '92

GUNFIRE crackled and bombs exploded from Sunday night throughout yesterday's legislative and local elections, leaving at least 16 people dead in the latest spate of poll violence.

At least 72 people have been killed since campaigning officially started in January, prompting analysts to predict that this year's elections might yet turn out to be the bloodiest since 1992.

Hours before voting began at 7 a.m. Monday, four people, including an Army soldier, were killed in a street gun battle between supporters of rival mayoral candidates in Paoay, Ilocos Norte. *(See story in Across the Nation on Page A13.)*

Police said three supporters of another mayoral candidate were also killed Sunday night when they were fired upon by gunmen of a rival politician in Cadiz, Negros Occidental.

The military said four Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed on Sunday night in an attack on an Army outpost in Basilan. Four bandits and a soldier were wounded in the gun battle.

"They (bandits) wanted to discourage people from voting," said Col. Juvenal Narcise, an Army battalion commander. The Abu Sayyaf

2001/ A21

Second FRONT PAGE

PPC, Puwersa swap raps

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

AS people rushed to get their votes recorded in precincts all over the country yesterday, the administration's People Power Coalition accused the opposition Puwersa ng Masa of engaging in an 11th hour disinformation campaign aimed at negating a dominant PPC vote.

PPC spokesperson Conrado Limcaoco said the scheme was carried out through the text-messaging system.

One kind of text message allegedly sent out by the opposition informed people that the voting had been extended from 3 to 5 in the afternoon.

Another message allegedly told voters it was all right to write down "13-0" or "VOT FOR D CHAMMP" in their ballots, assuring that this would be counted in favor of the administration party.

In truth, such a vote would be declared invalid.

Opposition candidate Edgardo Angara laughed off the PPC allegations.

"It's a PPC gimmick. They're the ones doing it," said Angara in Filipino.

Limcaoco said the PPC had also received reports from the provinces that sample ballots were being distributed in which the names of a number of Puwersa ng Masa senatorial candidates were included among the PPC bets.

The ostensible purpose of the scheme was to "junk" some PnM senatorial bets as, Limcaoco said, the opposition was "obviously desperate, they are employing every dirty trick possible to sabotage our campaign."

The INQUIRER did see for itself that some political groupings allied with the pro-Estrada opposition were indeed junking some of the opposition senatorial candidates.

Sample ballots

Sample ballots distributed at the Pamantasan ng Makati early yesterday bore the complete local ticket of mayoral candidate Jejomar Binay, a known Estrada supporter, and congressional candidate Teddy Boy Locsin. But it listed nine PPC senatorial candidates and only four opposition bets.

The Binay sample ballot endorsed PPC bets Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Juan Flavier, Wigberto Tanada, Ralph Recto, Ernesto Herrera, Sergio Osmena III, Solita Monsod and Franklin Drilon, and opposition bets Noli de Castro, Orly Mercado, Juan Ponce Enrile and Luisa "Loi" Ejercito.

In Fairview, Quezon City, the INQUIRER got hold of a sample ballot paid for by "friends of Enrile" that listed only five opposition senatorial candidates—Enrile, Panfilo Lacson, Loi Ejercito, Gregorio Honasan, and Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

Limcaoco said the text message saying that the voting had been extended by two more hours was aimed at confusing voters, especially those in the A and B classes, the PPC's main base of support.

Limcaoco noted that the car-owning A and B voters find it convenient to vote in the latter part of the day to avoid the big morning and midday crowd.

Dirty tricks

"The disinformation was meant to exploit the '*mamaya na*' (later) habit of most Filipinos, and prevent the bulk of pro-administration voters from casting their votes," he said. "This is part of the opposition's desperate scheme to pull one over the administration party."

Those behind the malicious texting had reportedly exploited an announcement by Comelec chair Resurrecion Borra that voters may be accommodated until 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. provided they had been in line on or before the 3 p.m. deadline.

He said the scheme was targeted specifically at Metro Manila voters.

"This is dangerous because surveys show us leading in Metro Manila," he said.

But even in the face of such alleged dirty tricks, Limcaoco remained optimistic the PPC would win 9-4.

"Definitely, we will dominate the elections," he said.

This was also the belief of Angara, but in favor of the opposition. "I believe it will be 0-13," he said after he and his wife, Gloria, cast their votes at the Pamantasan ng Makati at around 8:40 a.m.

'Orderly'

Angara said yesterday's elections were generally "orderly" despite some incidents of missing names in the computerized voters' list and procedural lapses.

He said the high voter turnout, especially in Mindanao and the Ilocos region, was "a good sign for us."

He expressed sadness at the incidents of violence in the run-up to the elections, pointing out that most of the casualties belonged to the opposition.

Angara said it was important that the elections be peaceful and orderly since the "first step to reconciliation is clean and credible elections."

Another opposition candidate, Orlando Mercado, said the number of fatalities in this elections has already exceeded the casualties in the 1998 elections. Mercado cast his vote at the Fairview Elementary School in North Fairview at around 11 a.m.

Reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago left immediately after casting her ballot at the UP Village barangay hall in Quezon City at about 11:30 a.m. *With Shirley Hope Sebastian, Rosary Diane Baytion and Leila Salaverria*

FORMER president Joseph Estrada and son Jinggoy casting their votes at a special voting precinct at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

Party-list leftists bicker

BY ANDREA TRINIDAD-ECHAVEZ

LEFTIST party-list group Bayan Muna yesterday decried reported efforts by its rivals and "reactionary forces" to link it to the New People's Army, in the wake of several political assassinations carried out by the latter.

"They should make the NPA explain its actions, not us," Bayan Muna president Satur Ocampo told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Ocampo criticized rival party-list groups Akbayan and Sanlakas for saying Bayan Muna had failed to keep its "ideogical ally" in check.

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales made the statement in the wake of the killing of Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. allegedly by six communist hitmen over the weekend.

The NPA's Melito Glor command claimed responsibility for the killing, saying Punzalan had been found guilty of "crimes against the people," particularly involving illegal drugs.

Ocampo said Rosales' criticism was part of a massive smear campaign against Bayan Muna.

"We would like to inform the public that we are a duly accredited party-list group. We have complied with all the requirements for party-list accreditation and the Comelec gave us the accreditation," he said.

Sanlakas also virtually accused Bayan Muna of condoning election fraud when the latter allied itself with the Macapagal administration.

"We have received calls from our constituents complaining that they were unable to vote because the ballot boxes did not arrive on time," said Wilson Fortaleza, national president of Sanlakas.

Ocampo dismissed the allegation, saying his group had no policy of preventing people from voting.

Tired and hungry from waiting, Fortaleza said, many voters decided to go home without casting their ballots.

He cited Caloocan City where several polling precincts did not open until past noon. He charged Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo, who was endorsed by Bayan Muna, with being behind the disenfranchisement of voters in vote-rich districts like Camarin, Tala, Bukid and Bagong Silang.

"This was unfortunate because we were expecting many votes in Caloocan where we have a strong political base," said Fortaleza.

Ocampo, however, retorted, "We are pushing for the full exercise of democratic rights. All this disinformation, which started weeks ago and intensified a few days before the elections, is part of the black propaganda of other leftist groups like Sanlakas and Akbayan."

Fortaleza admitted that many Sanlakas supporters were also sympathizers of Malonzo's political arch-enemies, the Asistios. The party-list group, however, did not endorse the candidacies of the Asistios.

Bayan Muna is identified with the communist group, National Democratic Front, headed by Jose Ma. Sison, while Sanlakas was associated with slain rebel leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman.

Lagman broke away from the communist party in 1995 over ideological differences. Between the two, Sanlakas has more experience in party-list politics, having won a seat in Congress in the first party-list elections in 1998.

Crispin Beltran, Kilusang Mayo Uno chairperson and Bayan Muna vice president, blamed the Comelec's lack of preparation for the alleged electoral fraud not only in Caloocan City but in other areas.

Beltran expressed confidence that the party-list group he represents would win a maximum of three seats in Congress "if Bayan Muna is not cheated of all its rightful votes."

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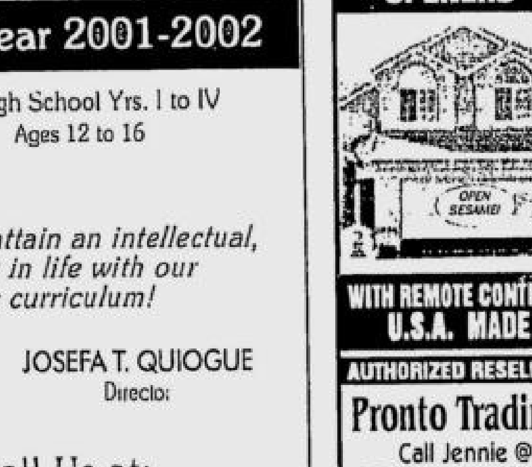
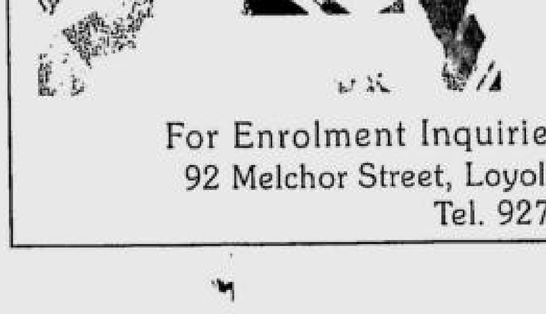




Punzalan slay 'fratricide' of sorts

By Norman Bordadora

FRATERNITY brothers of the late rebel hero Melito Glor said the martyred guerrilla leader must be turning in his grave over the assassination of Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan by a New People's Army hit squad named after him.

The Upsilon Sigma Phi, which also counts Punzalan as a member, said the killing of the congressman "presents a contradiction of the so-called revolutionary justice, which has no place in a civilized society."

The Melito Glor Command of the communist-led guerrilla Army claimed responsibility for the May 12 killing of Punzalan during a campaign rally in Tiaong, Quezon.

The Punzalan camp, however, is not wholly convinced that the NPA carried out the assassination and warned that his family could be the target of more violence.

Punzalan's widow, Lynnette, is a candidate for the congressional seat that would have been vacated by her husband.

A statement from the NPA said Punzalan had been "punished for his long list of crimes against the people," which allegedly included protecting drug traffickers.

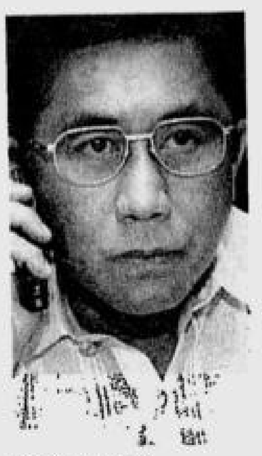
The University of the Philippines-based fraternity contradicted this, saying that "(Punzalan) has served his constituents well and it was for this reason that he was reelected in 1995 and in the 1998 elections."

It said that the late congressman was one of those who voted to impeach President Joseph Estrada, "an act distinctive of courage, statesmanship and love of country."

"Melito Glor would be ashamed of the barbaric act of these perpetrators, who cannot fathom the true revolutionary concept of justice and equity," said the Upsilon.

The eponymous Melito Glor Command, the biggest and most active of the NPA's armed groups, is named after a UP medical student who joined the armed struggle against the Marcos dictatorship in 1972. According to NPA accounts, Melito Glor was killed in 1978 in Calauag, Quezon while engaging government troops in a firefight to cover the retreat of his men.

GLOR


PUNZALAN

The fraternity is the oldest in the country and counts two former Philippine presidents, numerous political leaders and at least one other rebel leader, Medardo Arce, among its members.

The fraternity demanded justice not just for Punzalan and his family, "but more so for the people of Quezon for they have lost a great leader" in the statement posted at its website.

"It is a sad day in our country's history when decent members of society like Jun Punzalan are maligned without proof and killed without shame, for what they believed in," said lawyer Gari Tiongco, Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association.

Punzalan has been an active member of the association since 1964.

Melvyn Vida, a member of the slain congressman's staff, said Punzalan's widow and their children now fear for their lives.

"At this time, they are taking the necessary precautions for their safety," Vida said.

He said that aside from the NPA angle, the Punzalan camp is also looking into the possibility that the congressman may have been killed by assassins hired by a rival political family or by drug syndicates in Quezon.

The remains lie in state at the family's home in San Antonio, Quezon but will soon be brought to the House of Representatives in Quezon City soon.

Tension grips Quezon town

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TIAONG, Quezon—Tension continues to grip this town after Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. was assassinated here last Saturday allegedly by communist New People's Army guerrillas.

The Punzalan family, however, believes communist hit men had nothing to do with the killing for which the NPA had reportedly claimed responsibility.

Punzalan was shot three times in the head at a political rally. His cousin-bodyguard and one other person were also killed, while three others were wounded.

Illuminada Punzalan, mother of the slain lawmaker, insisted the perpetrators were "guns for hire," not communist guerrillas.

At the wake for the solon at the Punzalans' ancestral home in nearby San Antonio town, the matriarch told the INQUIRER that if the attack was really the work of communists, "they were paid to do the killing, just like in the murder of my husband in 1984."

The solon's father, San Antonio Mayor Marcial Punzalan Sr., had also been assassinated by unknown persons. His killing has not been solved.

Without directly naming them, the Punzalan family insinuated the Escueta clan of Tiaong was behind the killings.

"Every time an Escueta is a candidate in an election, "harassment and violence always prevail," they said.

The rivalry between the Escuetas and the Punzalans goes back a long time.

Congressman Punzalan was on his third and last term as representative of Quezon's second district when he was shot.

His widow, Lynette, was running for his seat against Ed Escueta, former chief of staff of Sen. Edgardo Angara and ex-administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

In a phone interview, Escueta said he lamented the death of Punzalan and denied that his family had anything to do with it.

"We are known in our town as peace-loving people. Members of our family would not have been elected to public office if we were known to be violent," Escueta said.

"If there are those who would connect this death to the court case we fought several years ago, it had long been resolved by the court which acquitted my uncle of all the charges filed against him," he said.

Tess Ward, younger sister of Punzalan, said her brother did not have the courage to get involved in drugs, for which the NPA allegedly killed him.

"He was not that gutsy to get involved in the illegal drug trade," she said.

Cristy, the other Punzalan sister, was more direct, blaming the INQUIRER for what has befallen her family.

"When you published all the lies peddled by his accusers, you did him and our family a great injustice," she said. "It really affected him."

"When you reported the lies, the story was prominently headlined. But when the National Bureau of Investigation cleared him of the accusations, you put the story in one corner of the page," Ward said.

Both sisters were crying when they confronted the INQUIRER reporter.

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the National Democratic Front based in Utrecht, The Netherlands, denied communist hit men were behind the killing of Punzalan.

In an overseas conversation with a GMA 7 reporter last Saturday, Jalandoni said the NDF had not given orders to carry out any death sentences because of the ongoing peace talks between the Philippine government and the NDF.

Jalandoni admitted, however, that the slain solon had been on the NPA hit list for alleged crimes against the people, particularly drug trafficking.

Meantime, Supt. Amado Sadili, Tiaong police chief, ordered police to search all hospitals in nearby municipalities after one of the wounded, M/Sgt. Nemesio Bernechea, said he was able to hit one of Punzalan's assailants during a short exchange of gunfire.

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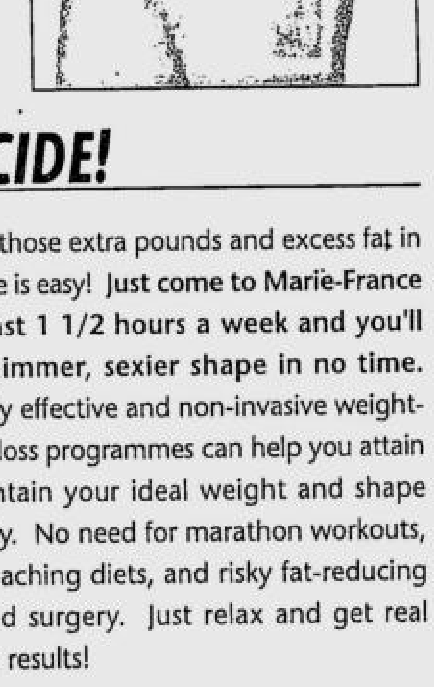
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Tempers flare; Comelec blamed for chaos

TEMPERS flared yesterday as registered voters in various areas of Metro Manila and the provinces were barred from casting their ballots because of the voters' list used by the Commission on Elections.

Jose Concepcion, chair of the National Movement for Free Elections, said the Comelec commissioners should be held legally responsible for disallowing legitimate voters to participate in the elections.

He also slammed Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco for shrugging off the confusion, even as she claimed that things would not have been a mess if the Comelec had followed her registration system.

"Anyone who has voter's ID is qualified to vote," a fuming Concepcion said when he stormed the Namfrel quick count center at the La Salle Greenhills yesterday.

He complained that he was made to wait 20 minutes before Tancangco finally talked to him, "and when she did, all she said was that it would not have been this way if the Comelec had agreed to use her system."

"That's what made me very angry. There is going to be a bigger problem if we had followed what she wanted," Concepcion said.

But the head of the private watchdog group said 50 percent of Metro Manila and almost all provinces would not have been able to register and vote if the government sustained Tancangco's precinct mapping and voter verification project.

Concepcion said he has consulted with Namfrel lawyers yesterday after he failed to find his name in the precinct, but admitted that there was "no legal solution" to the matter that would pin down the Comelec.

The Board of Election Inspectors, composed of public schoolteachers, would be the ones liable for refusing the voters their right to vote, according to Namfrel's legal experts.

Concepcion however refused to budge, saying he would draft a protest action against the Comelec after the elections.

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Why quick count is not quick at all

(From page 1)

certificate of votes.

A Comelec resolution approving Namfrel's request was approved at 10 last night, according to Namfrel chair Jose Concepcion.

This is why as of midnight, Namfrel had not started its quick count as it waited for Comelec approval.

Earlier, Namfrel complained that the sixth copy of the election returns that were furnished the watchdog body were not legible, severely hampering its quick count operation.

The seventh copy is more legible because it's made of better quality paper, according to Concepcion.

Concepcion said that teachers who were not informed of the decision refused to provide Namfrel with the seventh copy, which was originally supposed to go to the National Press Club's quick count operation.

Namfrel officials noted that in past elections, only about 10 percent of the election returns received by Namfrel were not legible.

This time, however, almost all of copies of the returns Namfrel received after the close of voting yesterday could not be read, Concepcion said.

Concepcion said that most of the illegible copies of the sixth-copy returns came from the National Capital Region and nearby provinces.

The Namfrel chair also blamed the poor quality of the carbon paper supplied to make copies of election returns.

The Comelec is supposed to supply the Namfrel with the third, fourth and sixth copies of the certificates of canvass for it to be able to detect any discrepancies. Previously, the Namfrel was given only the sixth copy of the certificates.

The seventh copy of the certificates of canvass would have gone to the National Press Club. But the NPC withdrew its accreditation to conduct a quick count after its partners withdrew.

The Namfrel has to go through the tedious process of examining two copies of the certificates of canvass to rule out any possibility of *dagdag-bawas* (vote-shaving and –padding).

This could delay a quick count of the election results, Namfrel officials said.

But they said the Namfrel would be stressing accuracy over speed, for which the group has been known in the past two decades.

Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz said the volunteers would double-check the certificates to ensure that no copy has been tampered with and that the entries are the same, a process that could really eat up much of time of the Namfrel's operation.

"We will be able to explain the reasons why there might be some delay," Luz said. "As in the past, there were some problematic election returns, so now we will be able to illustrate the types of problems."

Concepcion said Namfrel would now be able to detect discrepancies starting at the municipal and provincial levels because of the additional copies and be able to eliminate *dagdag-bawas*.

"I don't foresee any problems with the top seven senators, but I think there could be questions with the eighth down," Concepcion said.

The Namfrel officials could not say though how long the delay would be but assured that the proclamation of winners, which the Namfrel usually manages to do a week into its quick count, could probably be done in the next 10 days.

"We don't want to be fast and do it wrong. Speed is important but accuracy is more important," Luz said. "The objective, after all, is to reflect the vote of the people, their true wishes."

Data from the Namfrel tabulation centers in the cities and municipalities are usually submitted to the main quick count center at the La Salle Greenhills gym.

But this year, the tallies could be sent by e-mail with the help of the computer system provided by STI.

"It is not haste on the proclamation of winners that is needed, it is accuracy," Concepcion stressed.

The administration's People Power Coalition, meanwhile, said it may be able to have the quickest quick count operation yet for this year's senatorial elections and even future polls.

The PPC sought to come up yesterday with nationwide results of the senatorial elections through the means of cellphone texting.

PPC campaign director Paul Aquino said the coalition was expected last night to have an "indication" of the winners in the senatorial race.

Aquino said the process was much quicker than Namfrel's.

But "Txtcount 2001," as the PPC has dubbed its method, would "unofficial, experimental and only for internal purposes," stressed Aquino.

"It's not dependable because we don't have a hard copy to back it up. We're just basing it on the integrity of the one who copies (poll precinct results) and the integrity of the one who texts it," Aquino said in a press briefing at the PPC headquarters in Pasig City.

Power outage hits Rizal towns

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

BLACKOUTS hit at least six towns of Rizal province, parts of Mindanao and Aurora and areas of Quezon City and Manila just after the polls closed yesterday.

Television news also reported that Baguio City was hit by a power outage in the evening.

In Rizal, electricity was cut to the towns of Cardona, Tanay, Pililla, Morong, Baras, Binangonan and Teresa and parts of Antipolo City at about 6 p.m. after reports of an explosion. Power was restored at 8:30 p.m.

Brownouts were also reported in Camp Crame, Pasong Tamo and other areas in Quezon City, as well as the Vito Cruz area of Manila.

Jose Concepcion, National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) chair, reported that blackouts engulfed the Compostela Valley, Misamis Oriental and Basilan provinces in Mindanao, and Dipaculao town in Aurora province.

He said he had complained to the Commission of Elections about the blackouts that occurred as soon as the polls closed. Namfrel is doing an election quick count in support of the Comelec tally.

Aurora Padua, a Meralco supervisor, said in a radio interview that power was lost in Rizal because "some cables were cut." She did not elaborate beyond saying the power interruption was not intentional as far as Meralco was concerned.

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GMA vs Erap: Who is winning?

(From page A1)

a straight Puwersa ng Masa ticket.

"This is a referendum about what happened to him and whether people support him or Gloria," Fortun said. "He is hoping the people will express their voice of protest."

Police had faced the worrisome prospect that Estrada would be briefly let out of jail to cast his vote in San Juan, where he began his political career as mayor.

Policemen stood guard outside the hospital grounds, and Army troops filled the compound, spreading hammocks over the lawn.

Officials refused to give numbers for the security detachment, but up to seven police officers were seen searching cars that entered the complex, and two armored personnel carriers were in place.

One policeman said that his group was composed of one battalion. Another policeman said he was one of a unit of 139 deployed at the hospital.

But Supt. Jose Gili from the Central Police District claimed that there were just 50 policemen, who had been rotating shifts since Saturday.

After the election workers came and went, with Estrada's votes locked up in a yellow ballot box, police Supt. Jose Gili said there had been no security problems at the hospital.

Extra hour of sleep

Also surrounded by tight security as she voted in Lubao, Pampanga, President Macapagal said that the victory of the People Power Coalition was "up to God."

Her husband Mike told reporters that the President had a "very good sleep, was very happy and was confident" of a majority victory for the PPC.

Two hours behind schedule but "very relaxed," she cast her vote at Precinct 1-A at the Lubao East Central Elementary School in Barangay San Nicolas I.

The President was scheduled to arrive at 8 a.m., but her convoy arrived at 10:05 p.m., greeted warmly by her town mates.

Asked why she was late, her husband said she woke up at 6 a.m. to monitor preparations for the elections and then went back to sleep for one more hour.

"It was only (then) that she was able to sleep soundly. She's even losing her voice," said Mr. Arroyo, who said he went along to lend support to his wife as well as to sample some famous Kapampangan dishes.

No. 85

Also accompanied by son Juan Miguel, who is running unopposed for the post of vice governor of Pampanga, the President, dressed in a cream blouse and blue slacks, shook hands with her town mates before entering the polling precinct, where she stayed for 10 minutes.

Ms Macapagal was No. 85 on the precinct's list of 196 voters. Her late mother, Evangeline Macaraeg Macapagal, who died in 1999, was still listed as No. 83.

"Mikey," her 32-year-old son, was No. 8 on the list. The young Arroyo is running in tandem with reelectionist Gov. Lito Lapid.

Members of the Presidential Security Group closed the door of the precinct as Ms Macapagal cast her vote. Mikey voted ahead of his mother.

Mr. Arroyo said he and his two other children, Luli and Dato, voted in La Vista in Quezon City before Ms Macapagal left for Lubao.

"I voted PPC straight," Mr. Arroyo said.

Also listed as voters in the same Lubao precinct were Ms Macapagal's brother Diosdado Jr. and the children of late President Diosdado Macapagal with his first wife.

Security tight

The police, the Army and the PSG secured the precinct and the routes to the school, an indication that government troops were still on alert following reported threats to the First Family.

Talking to reporters in front of the school, the President asked the people to be vigilant in guarding the ballot.

"I just exercised my right as a citizen. Now, what we have to do is to guard our vote, and we are hoping that this election and the counting of the results would be peaceful," she said.

The President said she expected the military and the police to "remain neutral and apolitical" during the election.

In a prepared statement, she hailed the ballot as the "one weapon which spells the difference between democracy and dictatorship."

She said democracy and economic development would only come about if the people vote for upright and humane leaders "who feel for the poor, who put the interest of the country before their personal interests . . . who are prepared to make sacrifices."

Mayor's welcome

One of those who welcomed the President was Mayor Lilia Pineda, wife of alleged "jueteng" operator Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda. Pineda said she had not seen her friend personally since she became President.

Asked what she would talk about with Ms Macapagal, she said: "Nothing. I will just welcome her. It's difficult (to talk to her) because this might become controversial."

The mayor, who testified during Estrada's failed impeachment trial at the Senate, said she expected Lubao's 55,000 voters to vote for all 13 PPC candidates.

"Of course, (we'll vote according to) the wish of our town mate who is the President. We'll vote 13-0," said the mayor, who is running for board member. Pineda's son Dennis, 26, is running for her post.

Later, the President visited a few other precincts to observe the conduct of the elections.

While in Lubao, Ms Macapagal hugged Isabela Lumanog, 87 years old, who had starred in an old movie, "New Jerusalem," top-billing Estrada as lead actor and Rogelio de la Rosa as the villain.

Erap's turn

In Quezon City, Estrada cast his ballot after about 30 minutes of waiting for the press to be allowed to cover his first time to vote as a criminal defendant.

But members of the media, who came as early as 4 a.m., were barred from entering the hospital gates. Only Radio-TV Malacañang was allowed to cover the event, according to a People's Television 4 official.

Among the barred media were the Iglesia ni Cristo-owned radio station dzEC and television station Net 25, which Estrada had specifically requested to cover his voting, from entering the hospital.

Flaminiano said Estrada was in "high spirits" and "very upbeat" as he cast his vote.

"His only message to the Filipino people was that he was hoping and praying for a clean, orderly and credible elections," Flaminiano said.

Echoing a statement from Estrada Sunday, lawyer Rene Saguisag said the 64-year-old ex-President was "definitely not sick." Asked why Estrada and his son were suddenly transferred from his Laguna detention center to the hospital, Saguisag said: "There is more to this than meets the eye."

"There was a flurry of activity yesterday, and we were not even informed about it," he added. "This is crazy."

A source from the Estrada camp said the deposed leader and his son would stay in the hospital until the Sandiganbayan decides whether to grant Estrada's petition for house arrest.

Actor Fernando Poe Jr., one of Estrada's closest friends, arrived in a white van at 9:10 a.m. He waved at reporters but did not take questions.

Cory, FVR, Serapio

In her signature yellow, former President Corazon Aquino arrived at the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Elementary School at 9 a.m. yesterday to vote. With her was her son, reelectionist Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III.

Noynoy was No. 10 on the list of 185 registered voters at Precinct No. 99-A while his mother was No. 11.

It took the former President less than six minutes to cast her vote.

Asked if she voted 13-0 for the PPC, she said: "*Siyempre naman, oo* (Yes, of course)."

In Pangasinan, former President Fidel Ramos voted at Precinct 13-A in the Asingan West Central School at 8:39 a.m. With Ramos was his nephew, reelectionist Pangasinan Rep. Ranjit Shahani, a voter in a precinct at the same school.

Detained lawyer Edward Serapio, one of Estrada's co-accused in the plunder case, did not show up at a precinct in Obando, Bulacan, despite the Sandiganbayan's ruling allowing him to exercise his right to suffrage.

Serapio reportedly informed officials of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group yesterday morning that he was not interested in participating in the elections, although he thanked the Sandiganbayan in a letter for its decision.

Serapio's no-show frustrated security preparations of the Bulacan and Central Luzon police, who had sent around 20 policemen to protect him. ***With reports from Associated Press; Tonette Orejas, Bert Basa, Russell Arador, Ronald Dizon and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk; and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Comelec execs under fire for bungling polls

(From page A1)

The squabble continued yesterday. Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said the elections were "OK," but Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco described the polls as "below satisfactory."

Worse, they blamed each other for all the confusion caused by procedural and organizational foul-ups that marred the polls.

Tancangco said the confusion resulted from the non-adoption of her brainchild, the Precinct Mapping Project (PMP), which she claimed was much better than the Computerized Voters List (CVL) that the poll body decided to use for this year's elections.

"Based on our matching, the present CVL is no longer accurate, from 30 to 80 percent, it's not accurate," Tancangco told reporters yesterday morning.

She added that "if this is the kind of elections we will have, then the people will definitely have disaffection with the electoral system."

Tancangco said the adoption of the CVL opened the electoral process to widespread disenfranchisement of voters and *dagdag-bawas* (vote shaving and padding).

"That's what I was telling you. Let's not argue anymore (and) let the facts speak so we could know who is correct and who is not telling the truth," she said.

In a press conference later in the afternoon, Benipayo chided Tancangco for signing a resolution that abandoned the PMP in favor of the 1998 CVL.

He said Tancangco was "a woman who could not be forced to do what she does not like to do."

"(The 1998) CVL is the more reliable basis for voting than this heavily uncompleted PMP," Benipayo said.

Despite the glitches, Benipayo declared that "everything is under control."

Not perfect

"It's not perfect (just like) anything that is manmade," he said. "So far, by and large, compared to past elections, it's okay."

But Tancangco took exception to the Comelec chair's assessment.

"Below satisfactory, if I were to grade the elections at this time," she said. "How can it be satisfactory with all these complaints?"

Benipayo countered by putting Tancangco to task for not dealing with reports that there were CVLs which were so dirty and soiled that the names of voters could not be read.

"We had expected her to do something about this. This is under her department," the Comelec chair said.

He added that Tancangco had even reported about the dirty CVLs "weeks ago but she has been reporting without naming specific municipalities except for Sta. Rosa (in Laguna)."

"So I don't think it's good to make a forecast that there would be a nationwide (*dagdag-bawas*)," he said.

Like Benipayo, Monsod questioned Tancangco's mapping project.

The former Comelec chair said the "precinct mapping" and voter identification card system were among the questionable Comelec programs, which were either shelved or where found to be useless in ensuring honest elections.

Automation and peace covenants

What the Comelec should have done, Monsod said, was to concentrate on automating the elections as required by law and to aggressively work in ensuring that violence was reduced.

Monsod said it was the Comelec's job to facilitate meetings among opposing political candidates to ensure that they would not resort to violence.

Instead of attending to "confidence-building (initiatives) like pushing for peace covenants among rivals and automating the polls, the Comelec officials did the wrong things," he said.

As a result, there appeared to be more election-related casualties now than the synchronized elections in 1992, according to Monsod.

He noted that the Comelec wasted time pushing for the P6.5-billion voter identification project "that is not even necessary because a Comelec ID is not a necessary condition for voting."

Missing Polaroid cameras

The project was eventually dropped, but not until after the Comelec had spent P60 million in buying Polaroid cameras, which are now missing.

For the precinct-mapping project, the Comelec spent P250 million to pay for forms, casual employees and their transportation allowances. The project was intended to establish the correct address of voters and to remove from the poll body's list those deemed as perennial flying or ghost voters.

But it was found that the courts could not use the IDs to determine whether someone could be included in the voter's list.

Monsod said the next Congress should "inquire into what happened to these funds because these are public funds. If you did not spend them wisely, you should be held accountable."

Monsod said the Comelec officials should also be held accountable for not implementing the law on automation. The law says that elections should be automated by the year 2001.

"Strictly speaking, they have violated the law for failing to automate," he said. "They had a three-year lead time to automate, which was more than enough time to do it."

He said automation was important because it could have "reduced the tension" and cheating in the elections.

The Promotion of Church People's Response (PCPR) also hit the Comelec for the irregularities on Election Day yesterday.

In a statement, PCPR secretary general Robert de Castro said there were "numerous accounts of mishandling, missing election returns, closed polling places, incomplete voters' lists and untraceable names of various individuals."

He expressed apprehension that these irregularities could facilitate cheating.

"These can pave the way for massive electoral fraud," De Castro said.

Despite the flaws, the canvassing of the results for the senatorial race will be conducted at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

The military has deployed a battalion of Marines as part of its security contingent at the PICC, said Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, head of the AFP Task Force HOPE 2001.

Armored vehicles at the PICC

The Marines are backed up by one armored company, which usually employs at least seven Simbas and V-150s.

The military security contingent is under the Philippine Navy's command "because the PICC is at the proximity of Manila Bay," Calimlim said.

He also disclosed that agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines would guard the PICC. "We have to make sure that the PICC is well-secured," Calimlim said.

Canvassing of the results for the senatorial race will start as soon as the Comelec receives the certificates of canvass.

In areas outside Metro Manila, particularly Mindanao, the military has made arrangements with the Comelec to hold the canvassing of the results of elections in certain areas inside military camps if necessary.

"There are some areas in Mindanao where soldiers will act as the board of election inspectors," Calimlim said.

"If the situation worsens and if the security of the military canvassers will be at stake, then the canvassing will be held inside military camps with proper representation from political parties," he said.

With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

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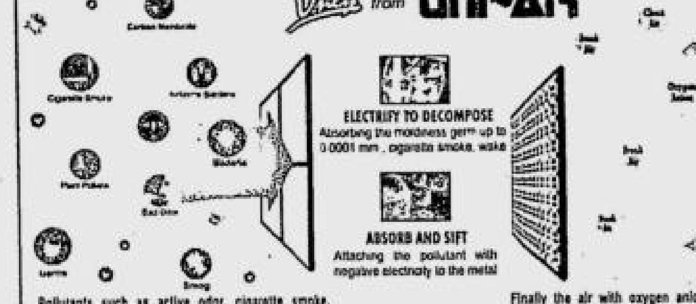

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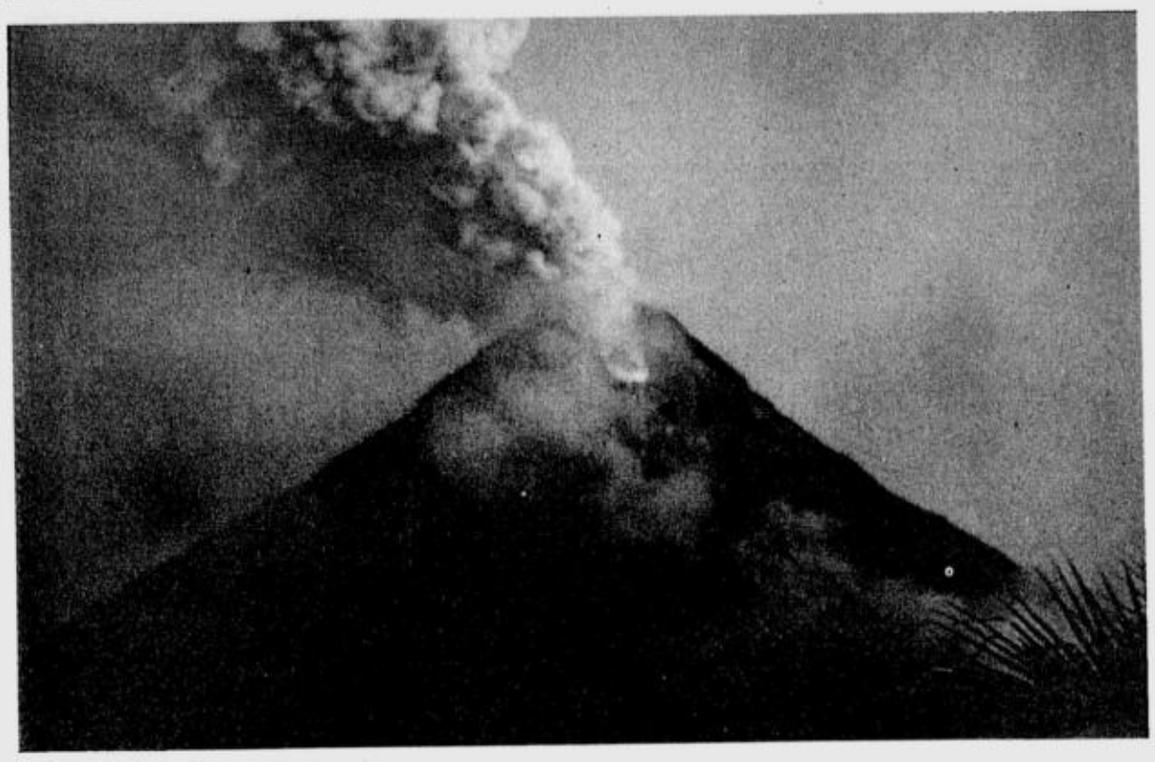

MAYON VOLCANO: Signs of restiveness

Mayon acting up

LEGAZPI CITY—Mayon Volcano has been showing signs of restiveness the past few days, sparking fears it could erupt in the coming weeks.

Yesterday morning, the INQUIRER, with the aid of a telescope at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology observatory at Lignon Hill here, saw car-size lava rocks rolling down the volcano's slopes.

There were fears the volcanic activity might disrupt yesterday's elections in the area, with the bigger problem being where to evacuate residents since the public schools were being used in the polls.

The 8,700-foot Mayon has been under alert level three since its last eruption in February 2000.

This means the volcano continues to manifest relatively high unrest activity characterized by quakes and tremors that are becoming more frequent.

Some volcanic explosions have been directly observed or detected by seismometers.

Phivolcs said sulfur dioxide emissions have reached 6,000 tons per day, with rock falls in the summit area.

Other signs of activity are vigorous steaming, a crater glow and persistent swelling and other ground deformation around the volcano.

Alex Baloloy, resident volcanologist at the Phivolcs observatory, told the INQUIRER that in the third level, magma or molten rocks accumulate at the volcano's crater and, if the activity continues, eruption is probable within days.

Cedric Daep, Albay safety office chief, said close to 20,000 people living in the six-kilometer permanent danger zone around the volcano will be the first to be evacuated at the first sign of an eruption.

The people live in 10 villages in five towns and cities identified as Buhian, Magapo and Buang in Tabaco City, Calbayog in Malilipot town, Miisi in Daraga town, Anoling, Upper Quirangay, Upper Cabangan and Upper Sua in Camalig town, and Baligang in Ligao City.

In last year's eruption, over 70,000 residents in the six-kilometer permanent danger zone were evacuated.

Some 5,000 of them have been permanently relocated to Anislag and Salvacion villages in Daraga town, Tagaytay in Camalig town and Lidong in Sto. Domingo. Most of them have since returned to their farming villages around the volcano. *Roly Embile and Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Unlisted, Yasay fails to cast vote

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Independent senatorial candidate Perfecto Yasay Jr. was not able to vote after he failed to find his name on the voters' list here.

Yasay, who arrived in Davao City at 6:30 a.m. with his wife Cecilia and son Oliver, said he also could not find a Comelec official in the area to assist him.

Yasay said he registered as a voter in Davao City in March last year. Before that, Yasay was a registered voter of Barangay 626 in Barangay Nayong Kanluran in West Avenue, Quezon City where he owns a house on Zamboanga Street.

He said he was informed last Sunday by the barangay chair of Barrio Obrero that his name was listed at Precinct 15-A in the University of Southeastern Philippines campus. But when he went to the precinct shortly before the start of voting at 7 a.m. yesterday, Yasay said he could not find his name on the list.

He went to Precinct 233 where his brother, Lowell, was registered, but his name was not there either.

After about an hour of searching, Yasay decided to fly back to Manila, catching a Philippine Airlines flight back at 8:10 a.m. so his wife and son could vote. Both are still registered voters in his old polling place in Quezon City.

But just as he was about to leave his Quezon City home to accompany his wife and son to vote in his old precinct, Yasay said received a call from Davao telling him that his name was listed at Precinct 233-A in Davao City.

Yasay opted to stay in Quezon City and not vote.

"I decided not to vote anymore. Even if I caught the 2 p.m. flight back to Davao, I would not make it on time. I thought my name was still here in my precinct in Quezon City, but I'm no longer on the list. Even if it were here, I wouldn't be voting either. It's the right thing to do. But it's good they found my name there."

Yasay said he had no intention of filing a formal complaint before the Commission on Elections.

"I hope this is an isolated case. I hope this did not happen to anybody (else)," Yasay said.

Meanwhile, three Catholic nuns, one of them the head of a religious congregation in the Philippines, were not able to vote because they could not find their names in the voters' list.

Sister Victoria Astorga, head of the missionaries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) and two other nuns, sisters Germelita Real and Purisima Pe, who came all the way from Baguio were not able to vote in Quezon City. They all had previously voted in Ramon Magsaysay School on D. Tuason Avenue.

The other nuns from St. Theresa's College, which is run by the ICM missionaries, were able to vote. *With a report from Ceres Doyo and Nini Valera in Quezon City*

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Amazing

ELECTION day was amazing. Not for its attendant violence. Eighty-nine violent incidents have been recorded since the start of the campaign and 61 have been killed, including 17 candidates. Consistently predictable in Philippine elections, violence has become a given in any political exercise in the country.

But what was most amazing about election day was that it happened at all. There had been some serious talk about its postponement. After the rush of events in the past six months, unprecedented in our nation's history, we still went out to the polls in record numbers. We stayed on the right track. Our democracy is alive and well. A democracy that was restored at Edsa I; reaffirmed at Edsa II and its pretensions repudiated at Edsa III.

EDITORIALS

Only last October, the country was on the brink of certain collapse. Only two weeks ago, this country was in utmost chaos on the verge of a shooting (or stone-throwing, if you will) war pitting the poor against the rich. And yet we went to the polls as though nothing happened. Or, maybe because of everything that's happened, we needed to vote our guts out.

We have gone through crisis after crisis the past six months. First there was the exposé on the extent of corruption of the country's president, Joseph Estrada, and his impeachment trial, which unmasked the moral bankruptcy of the country's leadership and the bankruptcy of its coffers. Soon after came the People Power Revolt, the second time around at Edsa; the free fall of the peso reaching an all-time record low of P55.75 to the US dollar by mid-January; the dramatic and emotional departure of the discredited president; the on-the-spot inaugural of a new President to fill the dangerous power vacuum which brought on a constitutional crisis. As Western commentators put it, President Macapagal came to power by extra-constitutional means but swore to defend the Constitution once she took her oath of office.

Another crisis was the arrest of a former president for the first time in our history for which we had to endure its consequence: the so-called Edsa III launched and sustained for five days by the followers of Estrada whose ardor was whipped up into a storm that rattled the gates of Malacañang. That was a mere two weeks ago.

Yesterday, we were determined to exercise our right to vote into office the people we believe would provide us with the governance and the service that would help us lead the life we want for ourselves, our families and our nation. Our resilience is amazing. As amazing as our faith in the democratic process of electing our leaders.

Something has got to be said in praise of our faith in democracy, and that it is by far still the best of all possible political systems. Because it mandates a government and governance of, by and for the people. Which Lincolnian classic has defined the highest aspirations of the Filipino from the moment Spanish invaders first trampled his sacred shores.

All over

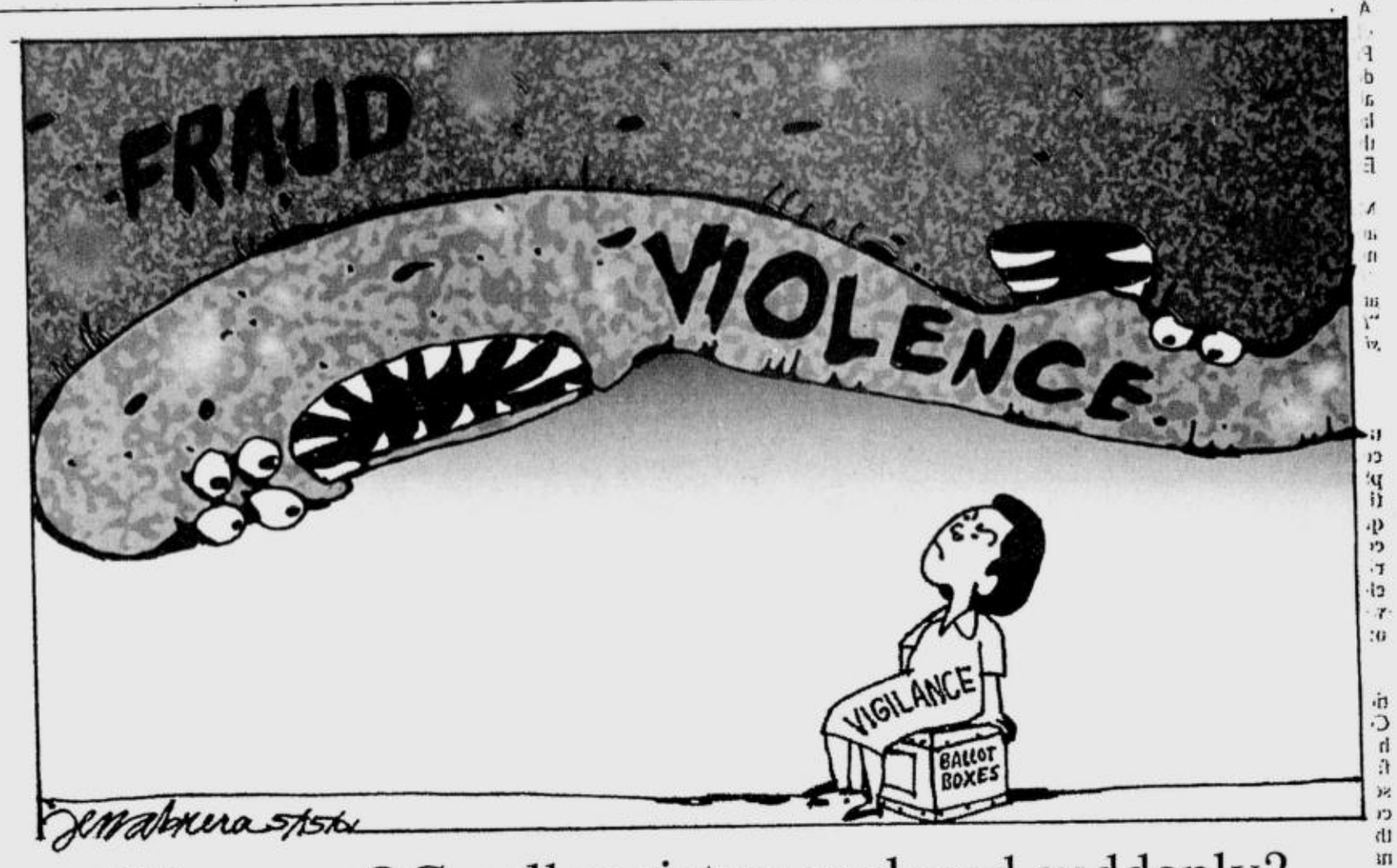
NOW, that it's over but the counting—which may take a week, says the Commission on Elections—we look back to the electoral campaign, no matter its infuriatingly endless partisan posturing, with some nostalgia. While it lasted, the campaign was a diversion devoutly to be wished upon a nation stuck with the stark reality of its overwhelming problems starting with the poverty of an alarming majority of its people.

While it lasted, we feasted on the rose-dappled promises for a good life for the morrow from 17,000 candidates throughout the country. For every candidate, a promise or two or more. That makes 17,000 times two, at least. That's a lot of good life. Wasn't that rich? Not to forget that not a few candidates kept the cash flowing.

While the campaign lasted, we could dream of elected officials who would be servants of the people with heart and mind mega-sensitive to the people's concerns, and who posthaste would work hard to take care of these concerns.

While the campaign lasted, we were entertained by the movie in our minds projected by candidates weaving their magic solutions to all our problems. This is the movie where wrongs are righted, good triumphs over evil and a happy ending is had by all.

Day after the election, it is time for a reality check. The movie has ended. The visions have vanished. The magic has been unmasked as gimmick. The promises have all been promised. Time to put our dreams on hold until the men and women we voted into office buckle down to work.



Why was QC poll registrar replaced suddenly?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

NOW that that the people have voted, they should not relax and let their guard down. On the contrary, they should be more vigilant in the next few days when their votes are counted and the totals sent to the municipal and then the provincial boards of canvassers. It is here where massive cheating is committed. Just because you voted for certain candidates, it doesn't mean your votes would be counted for them. Just altering one number (altering a number 3 to make it an 8, for example) or adding a numeral, even a 0, to a candidate's votes (adding a 0 to a candidate's 1,000 votes will make it 10,000) can make him a winner and his opponent a loser. It is the duty of every citizen to prevent this cheating that will stultify the will of the electorate. Your civic duty does not end with voting. It continues with preventing and reporting cheating.

Cheating, or attempts to cheat, will be done in many places. It is the height of naiveté to think that candidates and political parties did not include cheating in their plans and preparations for yesterday's polls. Even before the first ballot was cast yesterday, the two main political parties, the People Power Coalition and Puwersa ng Masa, were already accusing each other of plotting to cheat.

The PnM said the PPC has sent its "dirty tricks" experts to PnM bailiwicks to supervise cheating. The PPC countered that the PnM plans to feed media with manipulated election returns to create a winning trend for its senatorial candidates. When the official election results from the Comelec show that the PPC candidates are winning, the opposition would cry "fraud" and again incite the people to acts of violence, the PPC claimed.

The accusations and counter-accusations are complete with names. For the opposition, the head of its "dirty tricks" department is supposed to former Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, widely suspected as the brains in past electoral cheating. For the PPC, the dirty tricks experts were identified by Sen. Vicente Sotto III as former Quezon City Mayor Jun Simon, and former Interior Undersecretaries Eduardo Soliman and Wenceslao Andanar. Sotto was Simon's vice mayor and Soliman was his city administrator. Andanar is reputed to be a political operator of former Tarlac Rep. Jose Cojuanco Jr.

The mention of Simon's name in a political exercise sends shivers down the spines of candidates who are not his clients. For example, non-PPC candidates in Quezon City howled when the Comelec suddenly replaced election registrar Elmer Kayanan as chair of the city board of canvassers with somebody from the Comelec central office, a certain Alcoden Dalaig who is reportedly a close associate of Simon.

This Comelec move is really suspicious and dangerous. Normally, the election registrar acts as chair of the board of canvassers who, along with the city fiscal and city superintendent of schools as vice chair and member, respectively, leads in appraising the ballots, tallying the votes and proclaiming the winners. In the absence of the election registrar, the Comelec assigns one of its lawyers assigned in the same city or municipality to act as chair of the board of canvassers. But Kayanan's replacement is someone from the central office, supposedly a close associate of Simon who is under suspicion (perhaps unjustified) for his role in past elections. Why this change from the normal procedure? And why the change at the last minute? Is something afoot in Quezon City? Is this part of the PPC dirty tricks?

The suspicions and fears could be baseless, mere paranoia. But you never can tell. It's better to be prepared. Which means that Quezon City residents should be vigilant in monitoring the counting and canvassing of the votes cast in the city.

In my May 9 column, I wrote about the wanton and shameless violation by candidates of the law and Comelec rules regarding the sizes of campaign posters and billboards and where to place them. The Comelec has pretended not to see these violations and has not done anything about them.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga sent a comment. His Kilosbayan, he said, sent letters to Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo and Commissioner Resurreccion Borra last March 23 calling their "attention to the flagrant violation of the law...on election posters, especially by senatorial candidates of both parties."

The letter said: "It seems to me that if the Comelec, under your stewardship, cannot enforce obedience to a simple rule at least here in Metro Manila where your headquarters is located, our people may be prompted to ask: What can you really enforce? As you have the right, under the Constitution, to deputize other agencies of the government, may I appeal to you to do all you can to show that the Comelec has the courage and political will to exact obedience. I recall that when I ran for the Senate in 1987, all the candidates observed the rule on election posters."

Salonga added that Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan were prepared to cooperate with the Comelec. "But please show us that you have what it takes to enforce the law, at least here in Metro Manila. It is ironic, I think, that the principal violators are the senatorial candidates of both parties who should serve as the role models for complying with the law."

Benipayo did not even give Salonga the courtesy of a reply. Borra sent a memorandum on March 26 to Director Ferdinand Rafanan of the National Capital Region ordering him to enforce the law on election posters. Rafanan was told to deputize other local government units to "prevent, remove, directly confiscate or tear down any prohibited propaganda materials."

Local government units? Local officials running for reelection are among the most flagrant violators along with the senatorial candidates. How can they go after violators when they themselves are violators?

Last Saturday, Rafanan issued a press release telling candidates and LGUs to tear down illegal election posters. It was only two days before the elections. And nobody was obeying the Comelec which was not doing anything to enforce obedience.

Nakakahiya!

Voter education starts now, and humbly

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IF we're serious about voter education, now is the time to start, on Day One after the elections.

That's something I've been saying for some time now. We want real voter education, we can't start only when the official campaign period starts. Which was when the various voter education campaigns we've seen over the past couple of months did.

Some, of course, were pretty powerful. I thought ABS-CBN hit a raw nerve with its "Vote for Me" concept, the "me" there being the children—and by extension the future—symbolized by a cute (and, as I saw for myself, quite talented) 5-year-old. Nothing melts the Filipino's heart faster than the sight of a child. Or at least one inveigled into his consciousness by an ad: children do teem in the streets, strewn on the pavement at night like garbage, with only newspapers to comfort them or give news of their being there, and nobody seems to notice. But that's another story. The most reckless Filipino driver will drive carefully when his children are on his jeepney. And the most impoverished mechanic will forgo an amenity or two to send a child to school (I know one who sent a son all the way to dentistry).

That's a powerful message, but I don't know if it cuts all that deeply in the end. In the end, that is pretty much like an intensive training for our athletes a couple of months before the Asian Games or the Olympics. Which is really how we ought to look at elections in this country: as an Asian Games or Olympics that we need to prepare for. Our miserable failure in both comes from the same reason. We prepare for the Asian Games or the Olympics only when they loom, or burst upon us. We tend to rely only on native talent and ingenuity and improvisation to see us through. Alas, they are not enough.

That is how we approach voter education, too. We become frenetic a month or so before the elections, beaming all sorts of reminders to the public about how important elections are, how valuable the individual vote is, how vital it is that people do not sell their votes in cash or kind—the kind having to do with selling one's soul to false prophets. All the newspapers and TV stations had something to say about them over the past couple of months. As well indeed as various civic groups and NGOs (I read about those initiatives in several forums in the email).

It's not that they don't do any good, it's that they help voters only in the same way that last-ditch training helps our athletes not to land last in the Asian Games. They don't win gold medals. At the very least, their efficacy is subverted by their having to compete with a host of other messages, which is being beamed by the candidates themselves. A month or so before the elections is when the airwaves and newspapers get very crowded. And that is granting you do not run against something so unexpected as an "Edsa III," which has stopped being unexpected in this country. At the very most, as should be obvious by now, voter education is not unlike teaching Math to public school students. You do not just rattle off a few formulas and expect the kids to learn them in no time at all. You want to teach math to those kids, you need a pedagogy, or teaching method.

Which brings me to the other, more important point, about voter education. From what I've seen, its general attitude so far is this: we know the answers, being informed about the issues; the *masa* does not, being ignorant of the issues. It is just a question of getting those answers across to them. If despite our efforts to do so, they still do not get it, then we have a right to think they are stupid. If they still vote for Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile and Panfilo Lacson, then we should start packing our bags for America.

This is by no means a caricature. These are the assumptions in most of the voter education campaigns I've seen, which are not always unstated. The last especially, the having a reason to abandon such an uneducable people—an attitude of despair that is really the other side of arrogance—comes up all the time. And not all of it is just letting off steam.

That attitude spells disaster. All good teachers have one thing in common, which is their ability to learn. All good preachers have one thing in common, which is their ability to listen. You want to be a good preacher and teacher, you must first know how to listen and learn. You want to teach math to public school kids, you must first know where they are coming from. While at this, quite incidentally, you might want to watch the movie, "Not One Less" (you'll find it in video outlets), about how a young Chinese girl managed to teach herself and the other kids in an impoverished village in rural China the rudiments of arithmetic by trying to raise money for a bus fare. Necessity is the mother of invention, desperation the mother of education.

Voter educators may know the right answers, but do they know the right questions? From what I've seen, the question has always been: Whom do I vote for? It has never been: Why should I vote? Which is the question most poor people are probably asking themselves. Or not really asking themselves because if they did, they would actually be saying that elections loom in their consciousness. You look at elections from their point of view and see if you too do not take a cynical attitude toward them. You have a spouse or a lover who disappears from your life for three years, and then reappears one day carrying roses and asking for a lay in the hay, would you embrace him or her so readily? That is how elections are to the poor—they are the time when their philandering spouse or lover comes home courting them and seeking their embrace, only to disappear again afterward like mist in the sun. At least if your spouse or lover were an overseas Filipino worker who had been working his or her ass off in Saudi, you would be more than willing to go lie in the hay, or in a motel bed. That is not what most candidates are.

"Edsa III" would have shown us that the poor are asking an entirely different set of questions from the ones we have the answers to, or think we do. You want to educate, listen to them first. Or else you would only be giving the right answers to the wrong questions. All good teachers and preachers have one more thing in common, which is a tremendous capacity for humility. Which is the profound ability to say, like Socrates, "I know that I do not know." That knowledge is the beginning of wisdom.

Next time I hear someone threaten to go to America if his lessons are not learned, I'll tell him to do so at once. He deserves George Bush.

Battle for control of the Senate looms

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PAGING Education Secretary Raul Roco. At my old precinct in Doña Josefa Marcos Elementary School along 18th Avenue in Murphy, near Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City, I noted that the classrooms still display the photo of former President Joseph Estrada four months after he was deposed. I queried the teacher in one classroom about it, and she said that they went on vacation last April and only came back a few days before the elections so they were not able to replace Estrada's photo with that of President Macapagal.

Later we went to a number of schools in Makati to check out the conduct of the elections and I noticed that Erap's photo still hangs in a number of classrooms. I kidded one teacher that "Ate Glo" might suddenly come to her classroom and *mabibisto sila*. The teacher laughed and said, "*Hindi na bale, alam naman ng mga bata kung sino ang talagang pangulo*."

Roco ought to check out his schools.

* * *

With the elections over, the canvassing is underway throughout the nation, and with it come the attendant problems such as complaints of fraud, intimidation and post-election violence. The 2001 campaign has been quite bloody, with the slaying of one outgoing congressman in Quezon and of a gubernatorial candidate in Batangas topping the list of election-related violence. Let us hope that it won't escalate with the canvassing, but sadly our experience is to the contrary.

* * *

The senatorial race has dominated the attention of the electorate and both the People Power Coalition and the Puwersa ng Masa have fought hard to capture all the 13 Senate seats. So many factors came into play, e.g., the support of various sects and pressure groups. The survey groups have come up with their predictions on the outcome of the polls. All these only served to heighten the nation's interest in the senatorial elections.

At this point, it's still anybody's guess just how many seats would go to either bloc, but one major reason the senatorial elections have captured the nation's attention is that they have come to symbolize the bitter contest between the deposed president and the incumbent.

With the elections over, the Senate becomes the new battleground as firm control of this chamber is crucial not only to President Macapagal's legislative program, but even the stability of her administration. At stake in the composition of the new Congress is the passage of crucial legislation led by the Omnibus Power Bill as well as the prospects of an early or delayed economic recovery. Recall that Miriam Santiago has said that if the opposition captures the Senate, it would work for the impeachment of Macapagal and the "delicious" prospect of Erap's return. For the sake of stability and ease of passage of crucial legislation, a 10-3 or 11-2 result is to be desired.

* * *

Of the 24 senatorial seats, 11 seats are filled. Among the 11 non-reelectionist senators, three belong to Lakas: Loren Legarda, Robert Barbers and Renato Cayetano. Six belong to the opposition: Blas Ople, John Osmeña, Teresa Oreta, Tito Sotto, Ramon Revilla and Robert Jaworski; two are deemed independent: Senate President Aquilino Pimentel and LDP's Rodolfo Biazon. The incoming new 13 senators will fill the 24-member Senate where three seats became vacant with the death of Marcelo Fernan, the election of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 1998 and the assumption of Teofisto Guingona to the vice presidency last March (the 13th senator elected in yesterday's election will serve the last three years of Guingona's unexpired term).

If the PPC bags eight seats and the opposition gets five (including independent Noli de Castro), the score in the Senate would be 11 PPC-Lakas; nine opposition and three independents. This means that PPC-Lakas won't have a clear majority and things would be shaky for the administration coalition; of course if PPC gets only six or seven seats, things would be infinitely worse. It would need at the very least two or three more allies to have a firmer hold, which means it has to forge alliances. In this regard, one thinks immediately of independents Pimentel and Biazon and the team of Revilla and Jaworski, two opposition members who are believed to be the more pliant in that bloc.

In the Senate, bargaining always means getting the juiciest committees. Senate President Nene Pimentel could align himself with the administration, but that would depend on whether he gets to stay as Senate chief. If Sen. Frank Drilon maneuvers to get back his old post, as doubtless he would in preparation for a 2004 presidential bid, then Pimentel could end up with the opposition.

* * *

The Armed Forces and the police have won tremendous admiration for the maximum tolerance they exercised in dealing with the mob which assaulted Malacañang Palace last May 1. Among those who have expressed their admiration is President Macapagal. On Saturday, May 19, she will demonstrate once more her concern and care for the common soldier when she graces the GMA Para sa Kawal Cup at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite, as guest of honor and speaker.

The invitational golf tournament is organized jointly by Alay sa Kawal Foundation (ASK), headed by former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, and the Department of Defense under Secretary Angelo Reyes. The tournament's objective is to raise funds for the widows and orphans of the ordinary soldiers killed in action (KIA) or subjected to complete disability discharge (CDD) while in the line of duty.

* * *

Alay sa Kawal Foundation, the oldest NGO serving the common soldier, was founded by this columnist and other professionals in May of 1986, as a purely civilian response to the reformed military—a way of reaching out to the soldiers after the Edsa Revolution. A nonstock, non-profit NGO, Alay sa Kawal's main program involves giving direct financial assistance of P10,000 per family of KIA and CDD soldiers. To date, ASK has extended financial assistance to nearly 3,500 families and extended livelihood assistance to 125 military dependents and awarded scholarship grants to 136 soldiers through the College Assurance Plan's distance-education program. In addition, ASK has conducted fellowships in numerous military outposts nationwide over the past 14 years, bringing entertainment to the personnel in uniform to boost their morale.

* * *

This Saturday's invitational golf tournament will draw the nation's top corporations to the Couples and Langer courses of Riviera. President Macapagal will not only make the ceremonial tee-off, she will also play in the first flight, together with First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and key officials and business leaders. Among the participating corporations are Toyota Philippines, Philippine National Oil Corp., Shell Philippines Exploration, Philippine Air Lines, RCBC, Pagcor and Himlayang Pilipino. Also invited to the golf tournament are Jollibee Corp., Petron, Pilipinas Shell and Citibank. For particulars, contact Col. Eduardo Santiago (ret.) at the ASK office in Camp Aguinaldo at Tel. No. 913-5428.

Where's that smell coming from?

COMMENTARY

John L. Silva

"THE RICH say you smell," Dong Puno, a Puwersa Ng Masa candidate for senator, shouted at the "Edsa III" rally. "Long live the smelly," he smugly added as his co-candidates grinned.

Puno must have thought he had struck a nerve. But the senatorial hopeful got it all wrong.

Filipinos love being clean and smelling clean. Early Spanish chroniclers on these islands wrote often about finding the natives always in the river, frolicking and bathing. And not just once, but several times a day.

The Spaniards thought the habit outright abnormal. If it wasn't a sign of laziness, they blamed it on our being sinful. The Spaniards, you see, had some silly notion that if you bathed, you might just get aroused by rubbing yourself too much or by seeing other naked bathers. So, for them bathing maybe once every few months was enough, and it also kept the devil away.

The Maritime Museum in Barcelona allows you to walk on the deck of Christopher Columbus' ship as it nears its first "discovered" islands in the Americas. The voice in my rented headphones says glibly that because the men of Columbus' three ships hadn't taken a bath in months, the native Taino Indians could smell their coming several miles away even before they reached shore.

Can you imagine our squeaky clean ancestors one day waking up to the most horrible stench in the world and unable to figure it out until Magellan's ships are seen much later on the horizon? It makes you wonder whether Lapu-Lapu fought the Spaniards on account of their smelly B.O. rather than in defense of the homeland.

Personal cleanliness is a very indigenous attribute. Filipinos find it socially repellent and personally unacceptable if you smell. The first TV ads in this country must have been soap and deodorant commercials. And there still exists in the provinces a kissing ritual where you first inhale the freshly bathed skin of your beloved before kissing.

The Puwersa ng Masa candidates who incited the poor by saying the Forbes Park crowd considered them smelly are plain old hypocrites. These faux pro-poor candidates with bank accounts that are as big as those of anyone living on McKinley Road have traipsed around Europe and know body smells don't only come from the poor. Why, I was on an escalator in Monaco once, right behind a coifed dame with gold bangles and a diamond-studded Bulgari that equaled the yearly budget of Mindanao. When she raised her arms to let her bracelets tinkle, the waft of air from her *kili-kili* almost gave me a seizure.

We Filipinos are quite brutal about smell. If we're too priggish and think little of other countries, it's because we've had a lot of unwashed smelly foreigners come to this country and we rip them apart, in jokes and downright racist humor. In fact, one way Filipinos get back at smelly foreigners is by giving them a dose of the most vile smell we can produce. Sinibaldo De Mas, a spy for the Spanish king, complained in his report of 1842 about the horrible way he was being treated by impudent Filipinos. When he would enter a local town hall, he was greeted without deference or respect. Instead, two or three times he "had to smell the noisy emanations of an outpouring which decency does not permit me to name, done in my presence, to the great enjoyment of those around." That's right. Our proto-Katipuneros farted at De Mas and his kind.

Until recently, Filipinos could hold the distinction of being the cleanest, freshest-smelling people in the world. But sadly, past administrations have made it difficult for our people to keep clean. Puno's former boss, who was supposed to help the poor get jobs, roofs over their heads and faucets with flowing water, actually did nothing. To be fair and spread the blame around, I'll guess Puno must know a few political buddies who stole government funds earmarked for water resource management, sanitation and education hygiene. These guys pocketed them so they could traipse around Europe smelling *kili-kili* and thought nothing of it. If our people are beginning to smell, it's not Makati's fault. It's simply been the fault of a string of incompetent and thieving administrations which have completely disregarded the basic services, like water supply, due our countrymen.

If Malacañang, the business community, the Catholic Church and civil society want to make a dent on the everyday lives of people, they should think about improving access to water. And it's not just because of the smell.

I've just taken a provincial trip, packed in tight buses, tricycles, crowded municipal halls and jampacked *palengkes*. The folks all looked clean and smelled good to me. It's probably because there are some clean rivers left and the folks can still bathe more than once a day.

Actually, the smell isn't coming from the *masa*. It's coming from an embittered and manipulated citizenry "emanating noises" directed at Puno and his bunch of bungling conspirators.

John L. Silva is the curator of the National Museum.

A curious letter

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

REMEMBER how Alejandro Roces spoke about a community of Filipinos in Louisiana that had somehow made their way there many centuries ago, from Mexico presumably, and how others have also written that Filipino sailors in the galleons (our first overseas Filipino workers) would jump ship and never return home? Haven't you ever wondered what happened to them?

Recently I received a letter from Honorio Ybera in San Francisco who says that he first heard about the fate of these early Filipino voyagers in 1986 from a descendant who was trying to find his roots. Ybera was living in Baguio City when Armando Rios Tumalan tried to make an appointment with him, but what might have been a fateful encounter was aborted by the devastating earthquake of 1991. Only years later, when Ybera was living in Mexico, were they finally able to meet.

Tumalan was a practicing lawyer in Mexico with a hunger to know the origins of his family name. He had a lot of questions, "yet, I merely based most of my answers on a book about a group of Zamboangueños, descendants of Mexicans, who were rounded up and brought to Zamboanga during the peak of the Galleon Trade written by Jesus Gonzales Gortazar, a noted political figure in Guadalajara who visited the late mayor of Zamboanga City, Cesar Climaco, in the early 1980s. According to the writer, the Mexican laborers were dregs of Jalisco society, gathered and shipped to Zamboanga who helped build the Virgin of the Pillar in Zamboanga City. But it was their Mexican maidens who first sang the 'No te vayas a Zamboanga.'"

Tumalan had familiarized himself with the galleon route. He was aware that "it sailed from Manila in the month of April, down south along the Bicol coast and between Sorsogon and Samar and up north where it could catch the Japanese current to Mendocino, northern California and down along the coastline until it reached Baja California to Acapulco. The galleon only sailed twice a year... [They were] built in the shipyards of Jalisco where teak (sic) could be found. But they also could easily be obtained in Cavite" (and Bicol, and Cebu and Pangasinan).

Tumalan originally came from Costa Grande near Acapulco where "Filipino words like *bonga, palay, dayame* and *tuba* are used with the same Philippine meanings. The name Tumalan is unique in Mexico; it is neither a Yaqui, Toltec, Zapotec, Aztec nor Maya name. By no means is it the name of an Inca from Peru who sailed up north to Mexico to buy merchandise from the Philippines."

"According to information he gathered from his family, as a galleon approached Costa Grande, a sudden hurricane came and tossed it like a matchbox in its fury. The galleon sank in the bay of the municipality of San Geronimo de Juarez. One of the survivors was a Filipino mariner with the surname Tumalan. But little was known about him. It could not be said that the Filipino lived with the Mexicans or journeyed back to the Philippines. It is believed that he did not only leave his family name but he taught the inhabitants most of the Filipino ways of life."

Tumalan's great grandfather was one Nicolas Tumalan, born around 1855, long after the Galleon Trade was over. His grandfather Herculano Tumalan was born in 1890; his father Rodolfo in 1912. His mother was Rufina Rios Barrientos.

Tumalan himself was born in 1950 in El Espinalillo, in the municipality of Coyuca de Benitez, in the state of Guerrero. "In Costas Grande y Chica, in the state of Guerrero, especially in Espinalillo, Filipino customs, notably the cooking of rice is a common occurrence. This is odd, since the Mexican staple is corn. It is from this cereal that the tortilla wrapper is made. The tortilla contains various ingredients from beans, pork, beef, cheese, avocados, onions, fried rice, etc. Generally, it is called tacos. But depending on its contents, it is called by various other names like burritos, taquitos and others. In one of his visits, he gave me a big wooden bowl that had *bocayos* in it. Although they were bigger than the ones made in Bulacan, they tasted just as if they were from the Philippines. *Bocayos* are only found in Tumalan's hometown."

Apparently there are other Filipino names in Mexico like Batas, Bait and Maganda. "Then Philippine Ambassador to Mexico Samuel T. Ramel said that the former governor of Acapulco was a Maganda."

Through Ybera, Tumalan would like to trace his lineage and get in touch with any Filipino with the same surname or related to a Tumalan. His two children, he says, will continue to carry his Filipino family name with pride "and go on with the quest of its origin." Anyone who has any useful information or wishes to correspond with the lawyer can get in touch with him at Isabela la Catolica 13-312, Colonia Centro, Delegacion Cuauthemoc, Mexico City.

Who knows how many present-day Mexicans can trace their roots to a Filipino sailor who jumped ship hundreds of years ago? And what happened to those early Filipino rajahs who plotted against Spain and were exiled to Mexico? While it is true that we have shown a remarkable disinterest in our past for a variety of reasons, perhaps the descendants of Filipinos elsewhere can awaken that interest.

Mommy phases

YOUNGBLOOD

Sara Zoe L. Sangco

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

MY mom is going through one of her "mommy phases." I call them a phase because such things usually pass when she realizes she isn't superwoman. This latest one has her up at 5:30 in the morning to see me off to the carpool terminal.

It has been a surprise to me since I spent the last semester waking up to a sleeping household, opening the gate for myself and driving myself to the terminal. I was beginning to enjoy the privilege of constantly whining about being up when the entire household was still snuggled comfortably in their beds, sleeping. I used this as an excuse for crankiness so often that I am convinced my mom decided to join me just to shut me up.

Oddly enough, I used to want this kind of devoted mom. The kind of mom who dropped me off at school and picked me up on time in the afternoons; who had freshly baked cookies waiting for me at home; whom you could ask questions like "Have you seen my yellow shirt?" and answered, "It's on top of the washing machine." I wanted the kind of mom you see on that unbearably sappy family drama "Seventh Heaven," the kind who seems to be born for motherhood and whose heart is always home.

The problem was that God misunderstood the letter I sent Him before my birth and I got the opposite of the kind of mom I wanted. He gave me a mom who hired a driver to drop me off and pick me up from school; who couldn't cook an egg if she was starving; and who opened a Laundromat that lost more money than it made and went out of business in three years. I got a mom who usually is not awake to see me off to school, and occasionally, is not even home to say good night. I got a mom who has trouble remembering who her kids are; who tried to help me bake cookies once, only to end up being sent out of the kitchen for mixing up the measurements of baking powder and baking soda, and made things worse by saying, "You mean there's a difference?" I got a mom who takes me shopping when she has time but never seems to remember what she got me so that she has to ask two weeks later, "That's a nice shirt. Where did you get it?"

She certainly isn't a cliché, or traditional, or even what we teenagers would consider hip and cool. But she's real, and I've learned to live with her.

My mother is not the nurturing type. She's a high-powered business executive whose professionalism is evident even in the way she raises her children. When we go off to Powerbooks, all four of us are given the exact same budget to buy books with. When it is time to set a curfew, my younger brother and older sister are told to be home at the same time. When we trip and fall, she does not run to us and bandage our knees; she urges us to stand up and limp back to her. She says that life is going to be like that, and so we must learn to pick ourselves up and keep going.

I've learned to accept that my mom isn't going to be home until four hours after I've arrived from school; she's going to be late for my Christmas play; and she isn't going to attend my swim meets because she has to attend a seminar. I am never going to arrive home to the smell of cookies and cakes coming straight from the oven. More importantly, I've learned that this situation is okay.

I think I've even learned to like the way things are. What you come to understand as you get older is that motherhood isn't always about seeing the things you want to see, like freshly baked cookies, or newly ironed laundry, or a station wagon waiting outside your school at 3:30 in the afternoon with your mother behind the wheel.

There are so many other things I've failed to acknowledge. When I was younger, I used to think my mother wasn't a devoted parent because she spent 10 to 12 hours in the office. It was hard to imagine what she was going through, and what she had to give up for my siblings and me on a daily basis. I measured her love for us by how much time she spent at home. But once my older brother accompanied her to her office and saw her at work. He witnessed what she puts into motherhood: the hidden sacrifices she makes in working overtime so that she can send us to private schools and pay for Powerbooks raids and summer vacations outside the country. This is her maternal instinct at work.

Eventually, you learn to appreciate the little things, the things that go unnoticed—details that I laugh at and make fun of but which make my heart melt deep inside. Like the way she has collected a stack of books by child psychologists on "How to Raise Well-Adjusted Kids" or "101 Ways to Love Your Children" by her bedside, and actually reads them and follows their advice; the way she sits down to watch "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer" with me because one of her books said that to better understand your children, you should watch the same shows they watch; the way she serves us soup when we sit down to Sunday lunch, even if it is my dad who actually does the cooking, just because it seems like the motherly thing to do; the way she used to make me drink milk when I was younger; and the way she stuffs orange juice down my throat when I'm sick; the way she won't let even my 23-year-old brother leave the table without eating his vegetables; and the way she drives us out to McDonald's to get dessert every now and then.

These are the things she has been doing for so long that I have become blind to her efforts and have almost forgotten to thank her for them. These are the things that prove to me, time and again, where her heart truly is. These are the ways she knows to be our mother.

Her latest effort, of course, is waking up early to see me off to school, after fussing over what I should eat for breakfast as I remind her I don't have time to eat. Once my younger brother and I asked her why she decided to do this. Her answer cracked me up: "I just want to start the year 2001 by being a real mother." There was guilt in her voice, as if she knew that critics would rate her lousy as a parent, a perfect example of a mother whose kids would eventually shoot up their high schools.

When I heard her answer, I told her: "That's funny: I didn't even realize I had a fake mother before."

Sara Zoe L. Sangco, 20, is an incoming junior in Interdisciplinary Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Bigger tragedy

"We may share the same sentiment that the two Edsa revolts failed to fulfill the aspirations of the masses, but to launch Edsa III just to bring Estrada back to power would be a bigger tragedy compared to Ms Macapagal."

—Sanlakas national president Wilson Fortaleza

Unprincipled exercise

"It is hypocrisy for forces, which now engage in obstructing justice and in defending an unrepentant thief, to use people power to describe their unprincipled and futile enterprise."

—Rafael Mariano, president of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan on the pro-Estrada crowd gathered at Edsa

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Christ would have wept

LETTERS

I APPLAUD the Society of the Divine Word for speaking out through your columnist, Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, against the religious imperialism of the Iglesia ni Cristo, which dictates to its members whom to vote for in every election. It is sickening to observe our politicians line up, hat in hand like poor mendicants, every election time before the INC powers that be, obsequiously seeking their political blessing and endorsement.

The role of every Christian church is to form and inform its members on election matters and issues according to Christian principles, not to dictate to them whom to vote for. For then they would be taking for themselves not only what belongs to God, but also what belongs to Caesar, thus endangering the separation between the Church and the State.

The INC leaders are being most unchristian and very imperialistic when they dictate to the INC's members whom to vote for. They are leading their members to spiritual and political slavery. In this sense they are no better than the hungry power grabbers who inflamed and incited the lumpen poor in Edsa III to march to and assault Malacañang and be fed like cannon fodder before the altar of their political ambition.

If we don't watch out, Mike Velarde is likely to do the same thing with his numerous El Shaddai followers.

Oh, how Christ would weep at these sacrilegious events, just as He wept over His beloved City Jerusalem.—**SAMUEL J. YAP, 2 Verbena, Doña Manuela, Pamplona 3, Las Piñas City**

Well-being of majority must prevail

THE NEGATIVE political developments gripping our country are dismissed by some political scientists as part and parcel of being a young and politically immature nation.

While there is no absolutely "best" form of government existing yet among the community of nations, our democratic system is probably the best for us at the present time, place and under the current conditions.

Now about President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a "state of rebellion." Although the opposition and human rights advocates lost no time in taking the President to task for that declaration, it is clear that the welfare of the majority should prevail over all legal technicalities.

I think President Macapagal has taken the right direction here, considering the sinister plots around her. They are throwing everything at the her: rocks, slings, *sumpaks*, lies and plots. She should not just symbolically throw bread in return, but something harder for their own good. Better yet, throw them into the calaboose.—**LEONARDO A. BIASON, 77 Poblacion, Mangaldan, Pangasinan**

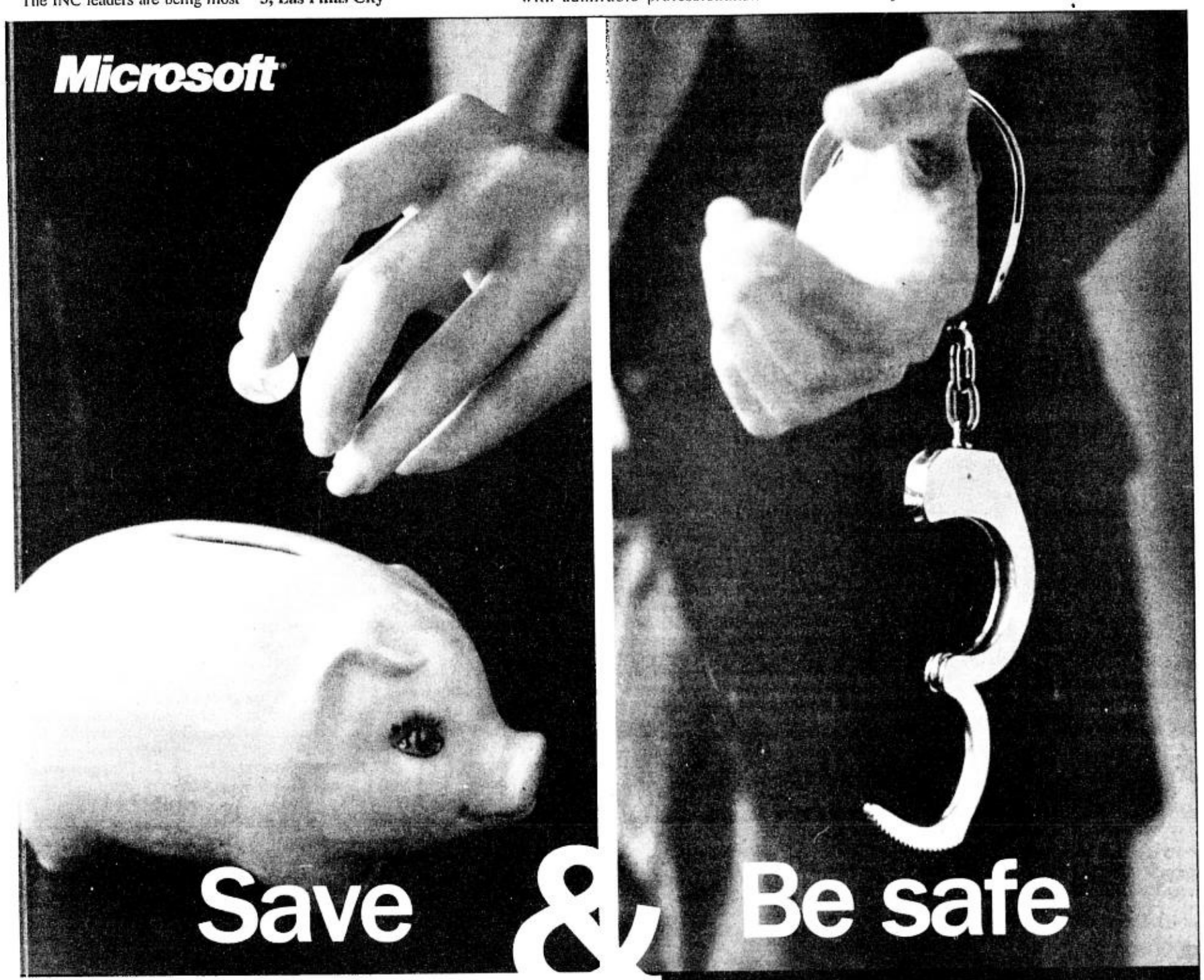
Correct name of new PEA chief

I WISH to correct the caption showing Frisco F. San Juan turning over the PEA chairmanship to newly appointed chair Ernest F.O. Villareal, which our office released to the press last May 3, 2001.

The name Ernest was inadvertently deleted from the caption while the same photo release was being made, thus making it appear that the new chair's name was F.O. Villareal. Please correct this mistake.—**MELDRID L. CASUCOG, public affairs officer, Public Estates Authority, 7/F, Legaspi Towers, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**

Kudos to reader's advocate

I would like to commend the INQUIRER for having a reader's advocate. It is an excellent idea, and Raul Palabrica handles the task with admirable professionalism.—**PETER WALLACE, president, The Economist Intelligence Unit, 14/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. dela Costa St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City**



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PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Childhood's summers

SUMMERS we associate with heat, political or otherwise, but let's not forget, too, how important summers are for children. Summers often become life's markers and milestones, its experiences providing us with lessons that resonate through life.

My memories of summers include a mixture of work and play. My parents had a strong work ethic, so my sister and I were drafted to help with little office tasks: filing invoices, answering the phone or even handling the cash register, which always amused customers. They were light tasks but they went a long way to give us self-confidence and to help us understand, as my parents never tired of reminding us, that money didn't grow on trees. (A sign of the changing times: my sister had to explain to her son, when he was a toddler, that money didn't grow on walls.)

Summers were also for rituals of passage. I remember three consecutive summers when our entire clan took communal responsibilities for three childhood diseases: chickenpox, mumps and measles. There were no vaccines yet for those diseases so the idea then was to get the diseases done with. When one cousin came down with chickenpox, for example, all the other kids would be brought around to play with the sick child. Caring for the sick kids was greatly simplified that way, all the kids sharing not just viruses but comic books, toys, *lugaw* and am.

Many summers later, as a student volunteer in rural areas, I saw another face to these diseases. For an undernourished child, measles was often complicated by pneumonia and diarrhea, and an outbreak could easily wipe out almost the entire infant population in an impoverished community.

It was in those same villages where I saw another summer ritual: entire gangs of boys getting "it" chopped off swiftly, *pak, pak*. Being a city boy, I got the guillotine with two other male cousins in a thoroughly modern medical clinic, an injection of anesthetic scaring us more than the mutilation itself. I don't remember too much of the procedure itself, except for a large bottle in the clinic, like one of those candy jars you find in a *sari-sari* store except that this one was filled almost to the brim with the doctor's trophies. I think about that bottle whenever I hear the joke about the expandable magic wallet made out of a special kind of skin. Rub it, the joke goes, and it becomes a suitcase.

Mind you, my childhood summers weren't just diseases and foreskins. Summers were for travel as well. One of the most memorable trips we had was a tour of southern Philippines. My parents had won the prize but had it transferred to my sister and myself. We were the only two kids in the group so we were pampered by all the adults, and our hosts in Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, Zamboanga and Jolo. It was important to have been exposed, at that young age, to the colorful diversity of our cultures.

Davao wasn't actually new to us. My paternal grandmother lived in Davao City and we visited her at least once a year, during the summer, when we'd listen to her stories about life as a woman, a widow, a member of a minority group. A tiny woman with even tinier feet (they were bound, in the old Chinese tradition, and were about four inches long), my grandmother's stories remain with me, still shaping the way I look at the world.

Other summers were spent with my mother's side of the clan. My maternal stepgrandmother was an autocrat who would decide, each year, where we would all go. I remember at least two summers in Baguio where we were cajoled into behaving with threats, "*Hala ka*, the Igorot will get you." We never strayed far from our summer house, running back in terror whenever we saw old Igorot women. Again, later in life when I began doing summer work, I learned that the Igorots had much more to fear from us lowlanders than the other way around.

Most other summers we would go north to Cagayan, where my mother's family had business interests. Those were the truly idyllic, and idle, summers. City kids through and through, we all grumbled as we packed our bags for the trips but once in Cagayan, we adapted quickly to a summer of horseback riding, swimming, Scrabble and *sungka*.

We often crossed the straits off Cagayan to two islands with beautiful beaches. One summer, as we were crossing from one of the islands back to the mainland, the *banca's* rear end suddenly collapsed, and the water came rushing into the boat. We were in the middle of nowhere and most of the passengers were very young children. The family legend is that my stepgrandmother began screaming, "Save the children! Save the children! I'm old enough to go." An uncle was with us, and he and one of the boatmen were somehow able to steer the half-submerged *banca* back to shore while my stepgrandmother tried to calm down the children, taking the more frightened ones up in her arms.

The clan met after the accident to dissect what had happened. It didn't take long for the elders to conclude that the accident happened because the boat carried too many dragon children. Four of the grandchildren on board, including myself, were born in the same year of the dragon. That was an auspicious year, but it also meant we were too "heavy": dragon people, and our clan was to witness this in the years that followed, were supposed to be bright, but also often troubled.

We didn't go through any more rituals to remedy the situation. Ever so practical, the clan quickly made another decision, one which was implemented as soon as we got back to Manila. That summer, the children of our clan, both dragons and non-dragons, were sent off to Mr. Lozada's swimming school.

* * *

Comments can be sent to miguel@ pinoy kasi.org

The WORLD

Israeli choppers hit Gaza targets

GAZA CITY—Five Palestinian policemen were killed in a West Bank gun battle with Israeli troops early yesterday, and Israeli helicopters rocketed several Palestinian security targets in the Gaza Strip, including some near Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters.

The policemen were killed in the West Bank town of Beituniya, near Ramallah. The Israeli Army said soldiers opened fire on "suspicious figures." Palestinian police confirmed that the men were killed in a gun battle, but did not say how the fighting began.

In Gaza City, rockets hit the compound of the Force 17 security service, a Palestinian police building and the offices of Arafat's Fatah movement.

Three people were injured, doctors said.

Helicopters also fired missiles at Palestinian security points in Khan Yunis, Deir el Balah and Jabaliya but no injuries were immediately reported. The Army said Israeli Navy vessels shelled a Palestinian Navy office in the Nusseirat refugee camp, and that eight Palestinian armored vehicles were destroyed by missiles.

The Army said the attacks came in retaliation for "continuous Palestinian terror and violent escalation in recent days."

The Palestinian police chief, Brig. Gen. Abdel Razek Majaida, accused Israel of causing further escalation. "This Israeli crime is unjustified," he said.

In other developments Monday, the Israeli Army demolished a Palestinian police station and several other buildings in the West Bank village of Shuwakeh near the city of Tulkarem, in an area under Israeli security control. The Army said Palestinian policemen had used the station and the buildings to fire at Israeli troops.

Palestinian officials said the buildings were part of a local agricultural college and stood on land under Palestinian control.

In operations condemned by the United States, Israeli forces have frequently entered Palestinian-controlled territory in recent weeks in response to Palestinian gunfire and mortar attacks.

Also Monday, a large explosive was discovered near a bus station in the central Israeli city of Petah Tikvah, and was defused by police. Israel is on high alert for bombings. Scores of Israelis have been killed in such attacks by Palestinian militants in recent years.

Late Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met with senior ministers to discuss proposals by an international commission to end the violence that has killed 446 people on the Palestinian side and 77 on the Israeli side.

Israel is expected to formulate its official response to the Mitchell Commission report within the coming days. Previously, Sharon criticized the report for calling for a cessation of settlement construction, saying such an Israeli move would be a "reward" for Palestinian violence.

Sharon has also criticized an Egyptian-Jordanian plan for the resumption of peace talks that calls on Israel to halt building in the settlements.

The United States has welcomed both the report, which it may adopt as a way to restore calm, and the Arab plan. The Palestinians have accepted both plans. Arafat's deputy,

Mahmoud Abbas, is to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell this week, said Hassan Abdel Rahman, the Palestinian representative in Washington.

Israel, meanwhile, criticized the release of Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a leader of the Islamic militant group Hamas, from a Palestinian prison. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Wahid impeach hearing seen unstoppable

WAHID

JAKARTA—Indonesian Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri said yesterday efforts to hold an impeachment hearing against President Abdurrahman Wahid were unstoppable, a Muslim leader quoted her as saying. "The process of the special session cannot be stopped," Nadjamuddin Ramly, chair of the Muhammadiyah organization's youth wing, quoted Megawati as saying after a meeting. "She said that all of the nation's problems should be discussed at the special session." Ramly's comments indicate Megawati, who heads the nation's biggest parliamentary party, will not block attempts to hold a special session of the top legislature to consider Wahid's impeachment. Megawati would automatically take over if Wahid were impeached over two financial scandals, which have already triggered two parliamentary censures. *Reuters*

Berlusconi leading in Italy polls

ROME—Media baron Silvio Berlusconi held a narrow lead in both chambers of Parliament in his bid to win back the premiership with a coalition of right-wing allies but it was unclear if he had captured the majority needed to govern, according to projections and partial vote counts early yesterday. Between Italy's complex electoral system, uncounted votes from Sunday's election and several parties refusing to declare their allegiance, it was not immediately clear whether the billionaire businessman had the numbers in Parliament. By yesterday morning, no one had claimed victory in a country where chronic political instability has yielded 58 governments since World War II. *AP*

Nationalists win in Basque elections

VITORIA, Spain—Ruling moderate Basque nationalists and their allies have won Sunday's regional elections with 100 percent of votes counted, the Basque interior ministry said. The ministry said the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) and its coalition partner, Eusko Alkartasuna (EA), would obtain 33 seats in the 75-seat regional parliament. Euskal Herritarrok (EH), the political wing of the militant Basque separatist group ETA who have been waging a decades-long armed campaign for an independent homeland, were set to lose half their seats in the assembly. EH were expected to win seven seats, down from 14. The results indicated Spain's ruling Popular Party (PP) and the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE), a joint force opposed to Basque independence, would not be in a position to wrest control of the region from the PNV, which has been in power for 21 years. *AFP*

Brazil poised to approve gay weddings

SAO PAULO, Brazil—After six years in limbo, legislation is being put to vote in Congress this week that would make Brazil the first Latin American country to allow same-sex unions. Gay rights activists hope the legislation, which would put Brazil at par with socially liberal France, Sweden or Australia, will help end violence toward homosexuals here. Despite Brazil's high-profile annual Carnival celebration of sexual hedonism, the reality for gay men and lesbians is different and much more dangerous. One organization says as many as 130 gays were murdered in Brazil last year. *AP*

Germany to close all nuclear plants

BERLIN—The German government and nuclear power plant operators have reached agreement on a bill that would shut down every plant in the country by around 2018, Environment Minister Juergen Trittin told Sunday's Der Tagesspiegel newspaper. Trittin said Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder had told industry representatives they could sign the agreement as early as this month and that it would be presented to the lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, after the summer recess. The consensus ends nearly a year of wrangling over details after the government, led by a center-left coalition of Social Democrats and Greens, agreed with the energy sector in June 2000 gradually to phase out nuclear power in the country. Trittin told Der Tagesspiegel that the bill was based on the fact that the risks of atomic power make its use "indefensible" and that it must be stopped in the interest of public safety. *AFP*

3,600 B'desh students caught cheating

DHAKA—Another 3,600 students have been expelled for cheating in Bangladesh's college-leaving tests which have been marred by violence, officials and newspaper reports said here yesterday. It brings to 16,000 the number thrown out of examination centers so far. Reports said 3,630 students were expelled nationwide Sunday, a normal working day in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh on the third day of the tests. More than 12,000 students were kicked out in the first two days, prompting the media to call for a complete reassessment of the exams. *AFP*

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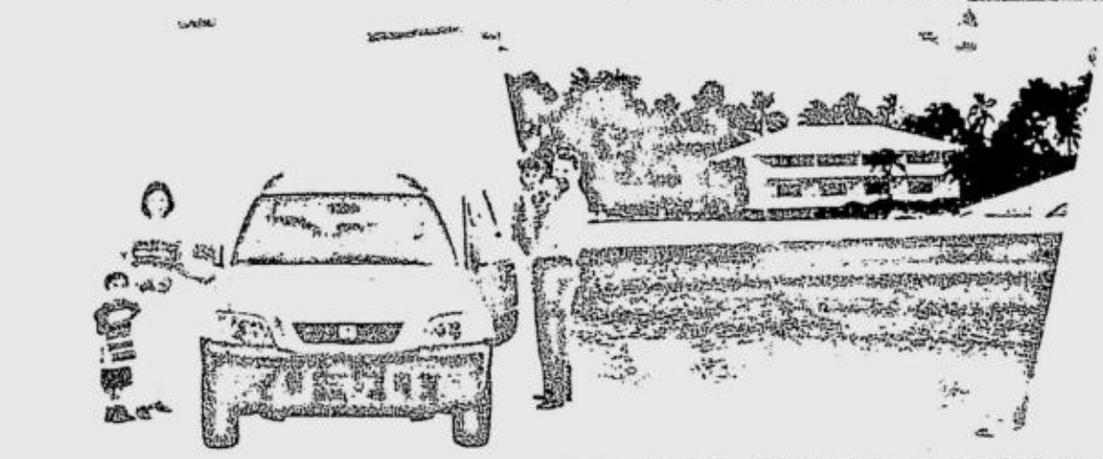

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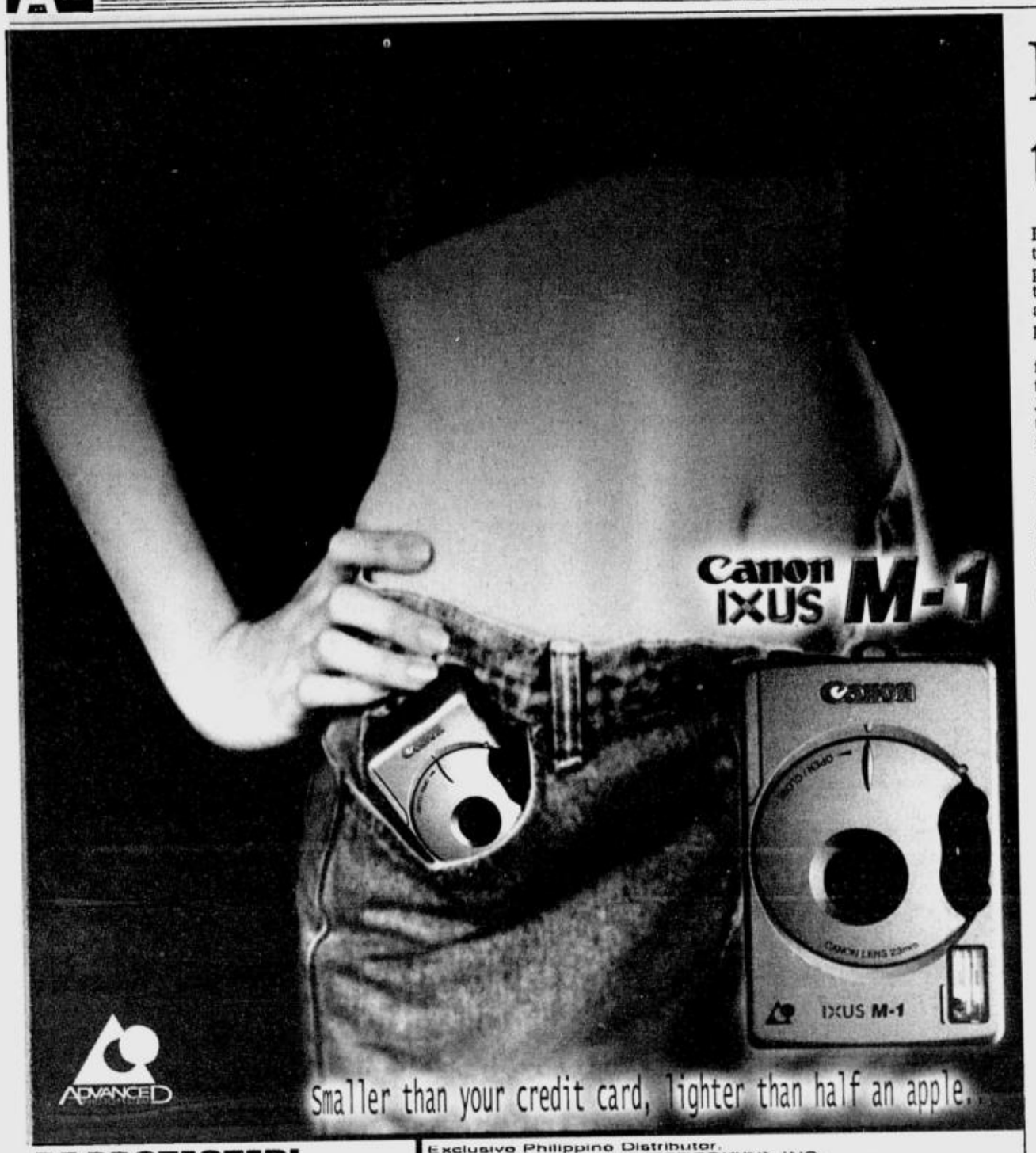

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Poorest nations meet to address 'injustice'

BRUSSELS, Belgium—A UN conference on how to lift the world's most destitute out of crushing poverty and into the global mainstream opened yesterday with promises of solidarity from rich nations and proposals to make better use of aid, trade and private investment.

Joining leaders from the poorest countries on the first day of the weeklong gathering were UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and French President Jacques Chirac, who decried the "growing inequalities" between people and nations as a "fundamental injustice."

Despite decades of global growth and development aid, the number of countries classified by the United Nations as "least developed"—meaning per capita income of less than $900 a year and scarce investment in health, nutrition and education—has risen to 49 from 25 in 1971.

More than half the 630 million people in those countries live on less than a dollar a day.

"It is more and more self-evident that the duty of solidarity has become the political and moral imperative of our time," Chirac said in a speech to be delivered to the assembled leaders. "The international community has no right to just write off 600 million human beings."

Most of the poorest countries are in sub-Saharan Africa and southeast Asia, but they also include Haiti and Pacific island states.

While the conference aims to get the United States, Japan and the 15-nation European Union to increase their aid budgets, impoverished countries are also looking to pry open access to rich export markets for their goods, and a real commitment to debt relief.

The head of the US Agency for International Development, Andrew Natsios, said all involved had to move to more "practical" solutions. "Good intentions are not enough," he said from Washington ahead of the conference.

German Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul said European and other countries must open their markets to products from the poorest countries.

"The conference must send signals for more fairness, above all in the trade policy of the industrialized countries," she said Sunday. "The poorer developing countries must get the chance to shake off their role in world trade as mere providers of raw materials."

In his prepared speech, Chirac said other countries should "take inspiration" from the EU's move this year to open up its markets to almost all goods from the world's poorest countries, except arms.

The deal passed, however, only after France managed to win a postponement of up to eight years for the most sensitive products—bananas, sugar and rice—it gets from its own tropical regions and former colonies, drawing fire from humanitarian agencies.

Chirac warned that ignoring the world's poorest results in social and environmental problems that affect everyone. *AP*

Russia declassifying KGB files, military men reveal

CANBERRA—Russia is currently declassifying Stalinist KGB files, two high-ranking Russian military officers said here yesterday.

Army colonel Vitaly Bogdanov and naval captain Valery Vartanov, the highest ranking Russian military officers to visit since the collapse of the Soviet Union, are here to address the Australian Defense Force Academy.

Bogdanov is the author of numerous studies of military science specializing in counter-insurgence and Vartanov is an expert on the armed forces of China and Korea.

The two officers, both from Moscow's Institute of Military History, will also be consultants for an Australian-made television documentary called "The Kremlin Files" which will include scenes of never-before-seen Soviet combat and KGB spy footage.

"The so-called secret files are being declassified right now," Bogdanov said. "They are open but not well known to the Western public."

He said the "KGB files" which created interest among Westerners, dated back to the Stalin period but not later.

"The KGB didn't determine the foreign policy of the Soviet Union during the Korean War or other crises," he added.

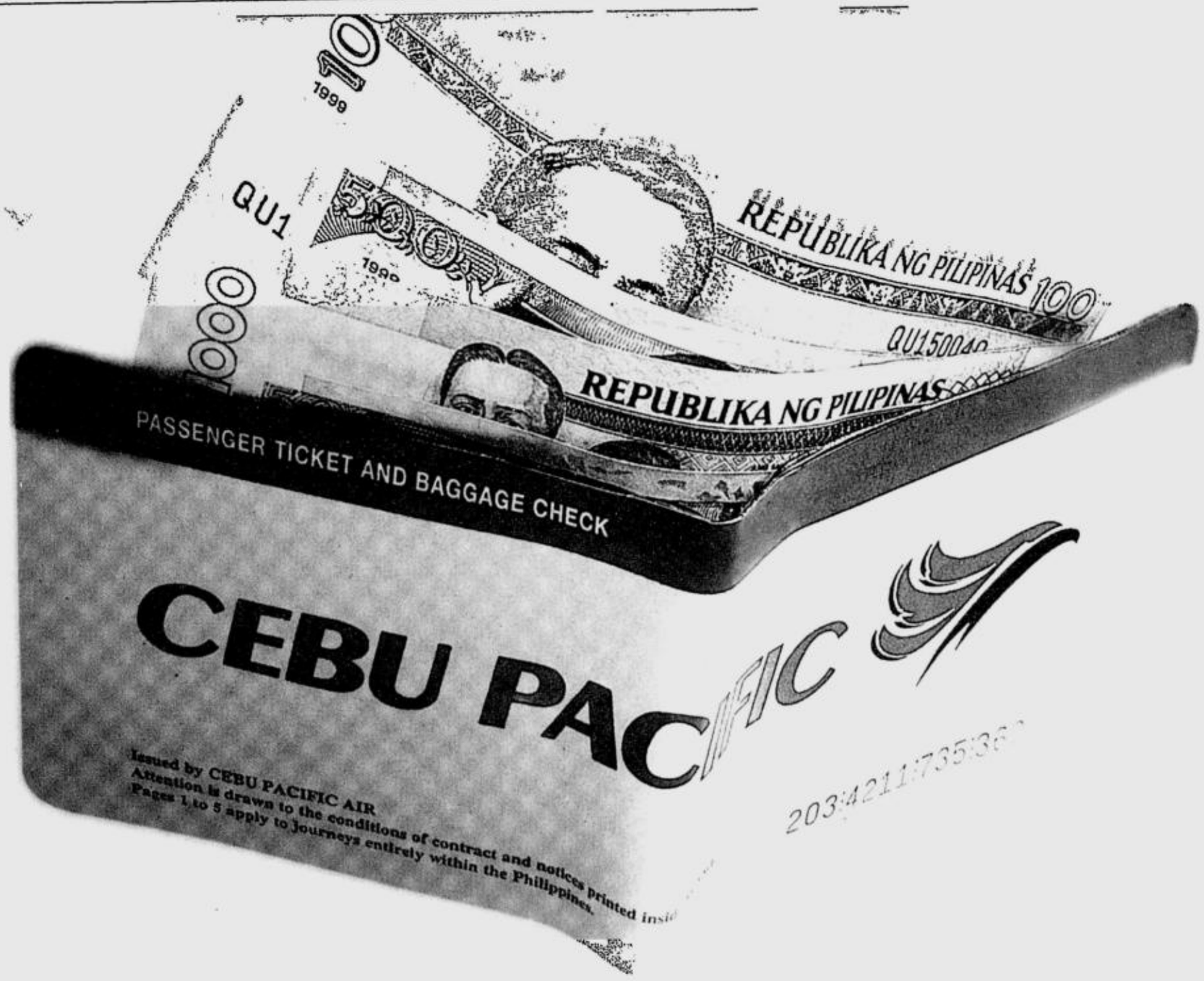
The Kremlin Files will make public for the first time the Russian perspective on a range of Cold War conflicts including the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Korean and Vietnam wars and the Arab-Israeli conflict as well as the Soviet Star Wars program.

Bogdanov said Russia wanted an Australian production company to produce the documentary because it would be handled more objectively.

It would show the Russian perspective and allow other countries to judge events from another point of view.

"It will allow people to understand the Russian decision making, the Russian approach," he said.

Asked what Russia thought of United States President George W. Bush, he said: "Bush is the US president and in four years they will have another president." *AFP*



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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Elections turn bloody nationwide

BY THE PDI BUREAUS

THE ELECTIONS brought death and injury to dozens of people as violence broke out in various parts of the country shortly before and during voting yesterday.

In Bansalan, Davao del Sur unidentified gunmen shot and killed Gene Espina, chair of Barangay Linawan at 6:20 p.m. Sunday. Espina took 11 gunshot wounds in different parts of the body.

Police said Espina was an active campaigner of a local candidate.

Two supporters of a mayoral candidate—Jovanni Aquana and Ronito Lazarito—were wounded after they were ambushed in Barangay Kenram in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat at 1:30 a.m. yesterday.

At least three persons were killed and four others were wounded in separate shooting incidents in Negros Occidental, Cebu and Northern Samar on the eve of the elections.

Negros Occidental

Rommel de la Cruz, a barangay captain in Cadiz City in Negros Occidental, and his nephew, Edmund de la Cruz, were shot dead at 11:30 p.m. Sunday in Purok Baybay, Barangay Daga, Cadiz City, 65.2 kilometers northwest of Bacolod City.

The elder De la Cruz was a supporter of a mayoral candidate.

A companion of the De la Cruzes, Rene Libertad, was hit in the shooting and died at the Riverside Medical Center in Bacolod City.

Police said the suspects—brothers Reiner and Ruben Hullero—were known supporters of the rival of De la Cruz's candidate.

Vice mayoral candidate Yanick Ordover (LP) of Victoria, Northern Samar, was shot by at least five armed men while he was about to board a boat in the river of Barangay Lungib early Sunday, according to military reports.

Ordover was unharmed.

Northern Samar

Also on Sunday, Ananias Bohol, 53, village chief of Barangay Magsaysay in Bobon, Northern Samar, was shot in the right leg by still unidentified attackers. The suspects fled on board a motorcycle toward the town proper.

Bohol is a supporter of Mayor Elena Balite who is running for reelection.

Miguel Enot, ward leader of mayoral candidate Agustin Chan, was wounded in the left arm after gunmen shot him Sunday in Lavezares, Northern Samar.

Another supporter of Chan, Sonny Gallego, was wounded in the chin and abdomen about 1:30 a.m. yesterday. Gallego is in critical condition in a hospital. Police said his attacker was a supporter of reelectionist Mayor Quintin Salodaga.

Cebu

In Cebu, Lito Abatayo, a supporter of Naga Vice Mayor Paulino Ong, mayoral candidate of Promdi in the northern town, was shot and wounded by a supporter of reelectionist Mayor Ferdinand Chiong Sunday night.

Police in the areas said the attacks were "isolated incidents."

Albert Bahulay, 27, a nephew of Mayor Requillo Samuya (PDP-Laban) was seriously wounded after he was ambushed by eight gunmen in Barangay Poblacion, San Isidro, Bohol, some 31 kilometers from this city about 11:30 p.m. Sunday.

Supt. Lani-o Nerez, Bohol PNP chief, said the attack was the first election-related violent incident in Bohol.

"So far, so good," said Nerez.

Panfilo Gerediano, 47, a supporter of a mayoral candidate in Naga, Cebu was shot dead around 1 p.m. yesterday by a town policeman following a chase near a public school in a mountain village of Tuyan, some 14 kilometers from the town proper.

His assailant, PO2 Dionito Navales, claimed self-defense.

Leyte

In Leyte, Bonifacio Salud and Juanito Mesias died while three others, including a 5-year-old girl, were wounded in separate shooting incidents about 5:30 a.m.

In Zumarraga, Samar, three persons, including a 5-year-old child, were seriously injured when they were fired upon by a group of armed men in the coastal village of Tinangan around 10 a.m.

Some of the victims were supporters of a congressional candidate.

In Bais City, some 45 kilometers north of Bacolod City, four armed men burned the motorcycles of four political supporters of Bais City mayoral candidate Mercy Teves Goñi.

In Barangay Pinamungahan in Cebu, barangay captain Rudy Monasque was reported killed. No details were available as of 7 p.m. last night.

Aklan

In Aklan, unidentified men fired at the house of the municipal coordinator of the party-list group Bayan Muna around midnight Sunday. No one was hurt.

In Paoay, Ilocos Norte, hours before voting started, at least four people, one of them a soldier, were killed in an encounter between groups of rival political candidates there.

THERE were not enough soldiers, like this one guarding a ballot box in Lanao del Sur, to prevent bloodshed in many areas during the elections.

BOBBY TIMONERA

Confirmed dead were Jongie Concepcion, 22, and Anthony Agdeppa, 22, both supporters of Evangelista. Police have yet to identify the third fatality.

The soldier, identified as Army Sgt. Donato Pacio, was killed in an exchange of fire with the armed men while his group was responding to the clash.

Abra

In Abra, a man on Sunday night lobbed a grenade at a health center in Peñarrubia town where ballot boxes were being kept wounding SPO3 Julio Basing-awao who was guarding the election materials.

Also in Abra, a passenger jeep carrying supporters of a mayoral candidate was fired upon by armed men in Tayum town but no one was reported hurt.

Benguet

In Benguet, three men shot at a police team on the way to a remote village in Kabayan town. No policeman was hurt.

Nueva Ecija

In Nueva Ecija, Palayan City mayoral candidate Alejandro Fajardo, elder brother of gubernatorial candidate Pacifico Fajardo, was declared comatose in a private hospital in Cabanatuan City after he was clubbed in the head by a lone attacker at 3 a.m. Monday.

Police have yet to identify the suspect and the instrument he used to hit Fajardo.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER, however, said Pacifico Fajardo, the incumbent representative of the province's third district, went to his younger brother's house in Barangay Santolan in Palayan City early Monday purportedly to clarify matters.

After a few minutes of argument, a man hit the younger Fajardo in the head with a blunt object.

Basilan

In Lamitan, Basilan, a militiaman was killed while five others were wounded when some 20 Abu Sayyaf bandits harassed the remote village of Bulingan at 6 a.m. yesterday in a failed bid to stop the elections.

Killed was militiaman Ramon Fernando.

"This is part of the harassment (by the Abu Sayyaf) to discourage voters from going to the polling places," said Col. Jovenal Narcise, 103rd Infantry Brigade chief.

Batangas

In Bauan, Batangas, a vehicle carrying the volunteers of a mayoral candidate was shot at, injuring driver Eduardo Picat, 31.

Police found 100 slugs of M-16 Armalite rifles, and other spent bullets in the crime scene.

Davao del Sur

In Malita, Davao del Sur, Rodolfo Fuentes, supporter of mayoral candidate Eduardo Masiwel, was killed when two groups identified with politicians had a gunfight in Barangay Tubalan about 11:30 p.m. Sunday.

In Cotabato City, unidentified gunmen on Sunday night killed Pfc. Conrado Nacolaia who was manning a checkpoint.

Lanao del Norte

In Tubod, Lanao del Norte, Arsenio Atis, a poll clerk and Elmer Capugal, a teacher, were riding in a motorcycle to pick up election materials when they were fired upon. They were wounded.

The motorcycle driver, Jonathan Mangubat and volunteer Bernabe Dayok were also wounded.

In Sibagat, Agusan del Sur, Mardovic Benegian, a reelectionist town councilor, was ambushed 9:30 p.m. Sunday but was unharmed.

Police expressed doubt over Benegian's ambush.

Camarines Sur

In Minalabac, Camarines Sur, Eladio Pamplona, a supporter of a mayoral candidate was shot dead 5:40 p.m. *Jhunnex Napallacan, Joey Gabieta, Nestor Burgos, Diosa Labiste, Chito Fuentes, Cynthia Borgueta, Carla Gomez, Gerry Pagharion and Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau; Allan Nawal, Charlie Señase, Rex Ortega, Julie Alipala-Inot, Chris Panganiban, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Cristina Arzadon, Kira Espino, Nathan Alcantara, Ben Moses Ebreo, Alfred Dizon, Anselmo Roque, Cesar Villa, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Noralyn Mustafa, Alexander Young, H. Marcos Mordeno, Ellen Red, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Jonathan Ma, Violeta Gloria, Bobby Timonera, Froilan Gallardo, Rex Ortega, Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Mei Magsino, Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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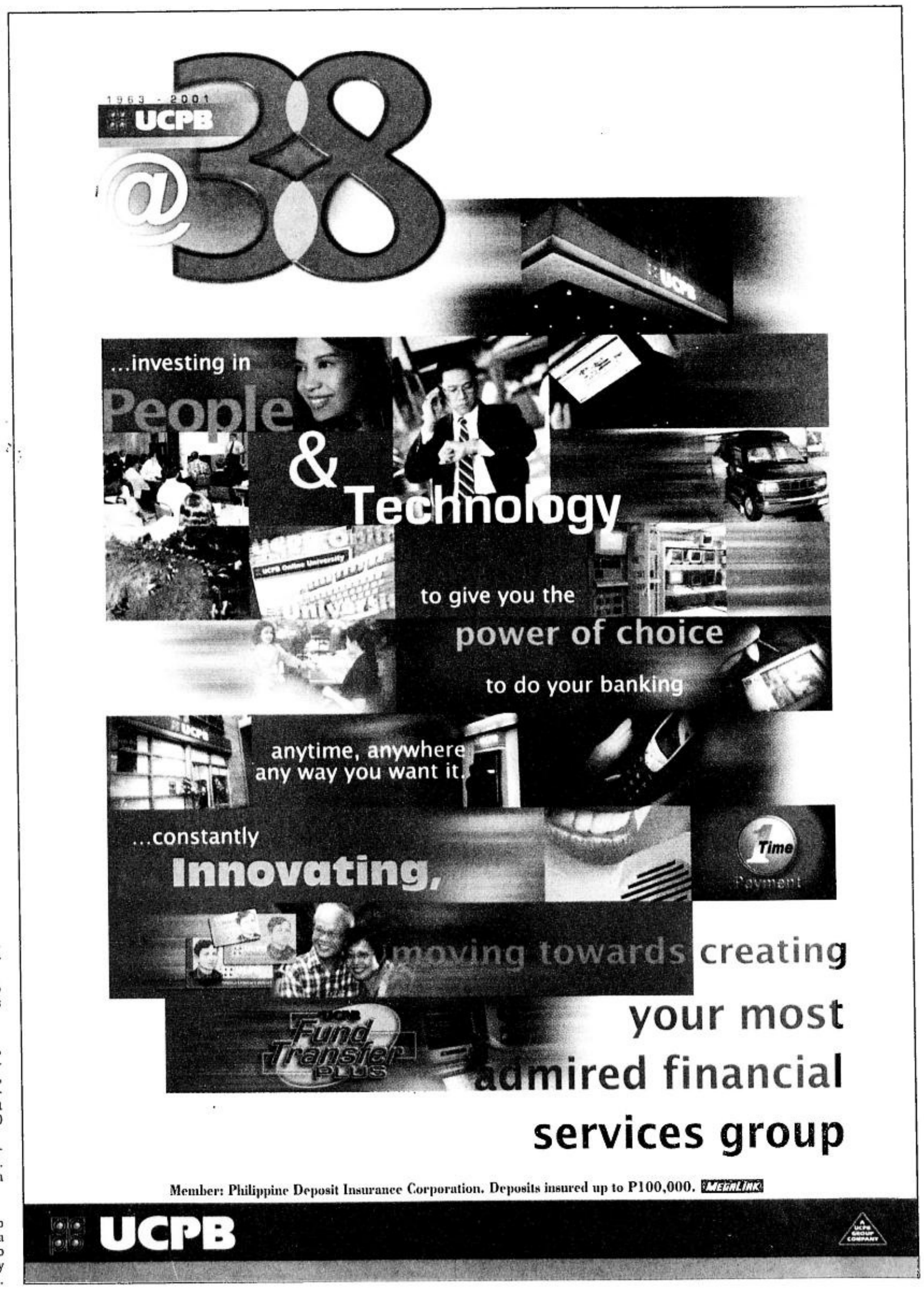

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Central Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila Hi 34° Lo 25°	Baguio Hi 24° Lo 17°	Tuguegarao Hi 35° Lo 23°
Laoag Hi 32° Lo 26°	Clark Zone Hi 32° Lo 24°	Tagaytay Hi 33° Lo 23°
Legazpi Hi 33° Lo 26°	Bacolod Hi 32° Lo 26°	Roxas Hi 32° Lo 26°
Cebu Hi 33° Lo 26°	Tacloban Hi 33° Lo 26°	Gen. Santos Hi 31° Lo 25°
Zamboanga Hi 33° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro Hi 32° Lo 24°	Davao Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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Bets' tricks dirty polls in provinces

CANDIDATES in the provinces tried old and new tricks to cheat in yesterday's elections, which could be one of the dirtiest and most disorderly in the country's history.

From North to South, candidates resorted to all sorts of gimmicks and tactics tó woo voters.

Gimmicks, tricks

In Benguet, congressional candidate Samuel Dangwa offered free bus rides to commuters, most of them voters, who couldn't get rides from Baguio City to Kibungan and Kapangan towns in Benguet.

Dangwa's family owns the Dangwa Tranco fleet of buses.

Two buses, which could sit up to 40 people each, left Baguio carrying up to 60 people each.

Many commuters were still waiting in Baguio for rides as of 10 a.m.

One of the oldest tricks in politicians' bags, distributing sample ballots with their names on them on election day, added to the garbage woes of residents living near polling precincts nationwide.

In Baguio, irritated residents were busy sweeping away litter, most of them sample ballots, in front of their homes.

In Bacolod City, police arrested 24 persons for distributing black propaganda leaflets against a mayoral candidate.

Brazen cheating

Black propaganda was also widespread in Ormoc City.

At the Marawi City Elementary School, blackboards in five polling precincts were written with "Vote Moner, Tamano and Rasul."

In Precinct 29-A in Barangay Inhobol in Masinloc, Zambales, a ballot box was found filled with ballots that had been filled up and signed.

Renato Estoquia, a youth legislative board chair in the village, reported the discovery of the ballot box.

Masinloc election officials inspected other ballot boxes in the precinct and also in Precinct 36-A.

Voting in the town returned to normal after election officials ordered the replacement of the tampered ballots.

Some voters complained that election officials in Mangatarem, Pangasinan did not put ballots inside their boxes immediately after these were filled up. The voters were told that the ballots would be collected first and placed in the boxes in bulk.

In Ormoc City, policemen arrested five alleged supporters of reelectionist Leyte Rep. Victoria Locsin (4th district) at a checkpoint in Barangay Curva on the eve of the elections.

The blue Toyota Land Cruiser that the supporters were riding in was found to be carrying firearms, counterfeit money and election paraphernalia.

Leonilo Palacio, 39, driver of the vehicle, told police that the Land Cruiser was his brother Peter's and was hired by the Locsins.

Seized from the vehicle were Armalites, a revolver, bullets and 357 pieces of fake P1,000 bills.

Palacio said he came from the house of the Locsins and was instructed to proceed to the city plaza to pick up volunteers and to Barangay Curva to distribute food to the supporters of the Locsins.

In Zamboanga del Sur, police arrested 12 suspected flying voters.

The 12 people were allegedly brought to Dumalinao, Zamboanga del Sur on board a Nissan Patrol owned by congressional candidate Antonio Cerilles, former environment secretary under ousted President Estrada.

Cerilles' party mate, Vice Gov. Roy Ariosa took the suspects from police custody. They were allegedly paid P1,000 each to vote in Dumalinao although they were not registered there.

Four flying voters were also apprehended in a village in Polangui, Albay. A man tried to vote for another man in the same town.

Vote-buying

Perhaps the most widespread form of trickery at yesterday's elections was the most direct: buying votes.

In Pampanga, police raised suspicion that there had been massive vote-buying at the Pandacaqui Resettlement Site, an evacuation center for lahar victims in Mexico town.

Without saying what the police's basis was for concluding that there had been vote-buying, Senior Supt. Ismael Rafanan said the supply of pork, beef and chicken ran out in the settlement before 8 a.m.

Rafanan said this was "unusual" and said candidates could have distributed money in the area to court votes.

BETS' TRICKS/p.16

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27 Central Luzon schools to hike tuition

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—At least 27 of 132 private universities and colleges in Central Luzon are raising tuition by 10 to 15 percent this June, the regional Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) here said.

In a report released Tuesday to the INQUIRER, the CHEd said the schools raising tuition in Pampanga are the Angeles University Foundation, Guagua National Colleges, Holy Cross College, Pampanga Colleges, Republic Central College and the University of the Assumption.

In Bataan, these are the Bataan Heroes Memorial College and the Tomas del Rosario College.

The Asian College of Science and Technology, Baliuag Colleges, Centro Escolar University and the Nararenus College Foundation in Bulacan are also charging new tuition rates.

Tuition increase has also been allowed by the CHEd for the College of Immaculate Conception, General de Jesus College, Manuel Gallego Foundation Colleges and the Wesleyan University Philippines in Nueva Ecija.

A new round of tuition increase was also approved at the College of the Holy Spirit, Ednor Colleges, Interworld Colleges and Osias College in Tarlac.

In Zambales and Olongapo City, schools allowed to raise fees are the Central Luzon College of Technology and Micro Asia College of Science and Technology.

Tuition will also be higher in all Systems Technology Institute campuses in Malolos and Meycauayan in Bulacan and in the cities of San Fernando and Angeles in Pampanga and Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija.

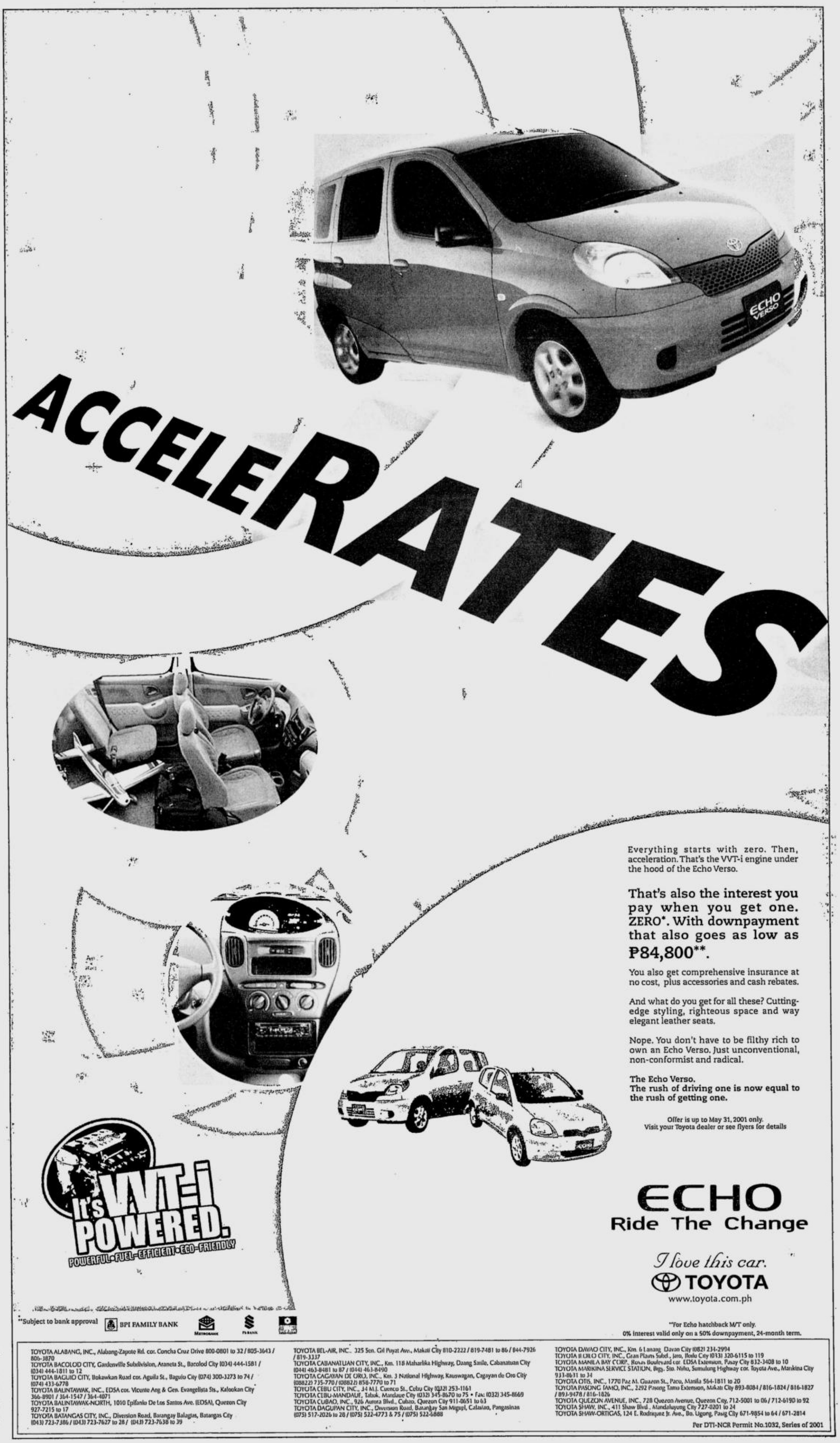
The CHEd listed nine other schools that are completing the requirements of tuition increase. These are the East Central College, Holy Angel University, Systems Plus Computer College and Computer Systems Specialist in Pampanga; Magsaysay Memorial College in Zambales; Nueva Ecija Colleges in Cabanatuan City; and STI branches in the cities of Balanga, Tarlac and Olongapo.

The CHEd said it would start monitoring in July majority of private schools that did not apply for tuition hike but might, like last year, charge higher rates.

Also on Tuesday, members of the technical working group of the then Regional Development Council's social development committee met to discuss the tuition increases.

The RDC said the meeting was called to assess the compliance of private schools on the use of proceeds from tuition increases.

CHEd Memorandum Order No. 13 requires private schools to use 70 percent of the proceed for payment of increases in salaries, wages, allowances and other benefits of teaching and non-teaching personnel. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



Bets' tricks dirty polls in provinces

(From page 14)

Reports of vote-buying were received from Bagabag, Nueva Vizcaya town in the province.

Ramon Jaranilla, Kidapawan City election officer, said he ordered an investigation of reports that there was an attempt to buy votes, not necessarily with money, in Barangay Kalaisan in Kidapawan.

The reports said a truck owned by the city government was seen distributing rice to residents early yesterday. Policemen and militiamen were seen escorting the truck.

In Lupon, Davao Oriental, police and election personnel arrested 15 supporters of mayoral candidate Manuel Guines who were allegedly going from house to house offering to buy votes for P300 per person.

In Davao City, motorcycle-riding men were seen roaming around the Mintal and Tugbok areas allegedly to distribute money and sample ballots at dawn yesterday.

About 3 a.m., goods and rice were distributed to voters in Barangay Talandang in Tugbok District.

In Pagadian City, an election supervisor executed an affidavit accusing the district election supervisor of distributing P400 to election board of inspection chairs and P300 to members allegedly to ensure that votes for Nationalist People's Coalition candidates were counted.

In Camiguin, Fr. Rhupenberge Develos, assistant parish priest of Mambajao, said there was massive vote-buying Sunday night.

"The prices ranged from P500 to P1,500," Develos said. He declined to identify the candidates behind the vote-buying.

In Marawi City, candidates courted votes by giving away candies, ballpens and cash.

Vote-buying from as low as P200 to as high as P2,000 was reported to be rampant in the provinces of Iloilo, Samar, Northern Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte and Cebu.

In Tacloban City and in some towns in Northern Samar and Iloilo, "goodwill money" were given voters in the streets by politicians' bagmen.

But only one person was so far arrested by the police for vote-buying, a village chief in an Iloilo town.

Antonio Anas, barangay captain of Igtambo in San Miguel town, 17 kilometers west of Iloilo, was arrested with a wad of sample ballots containing P50 each.

In the southern Cebu town of Samboan, opposing mayoral camps were reported to be buying votes at P400 per voter, according to Senior Insp. Julian Intoma, the town police chief, and Fr. Henrico Gabutan, the town parish priest.

Fake money

Aside from the fake money seized from the alleged supporters of the Locsins in Ormoc City, reports of fake money being distributed also reached Bohol.

Supt. Lani-o Nerez, Bohol police chief, said he received such reports especially in the eastern part of Bohol but police had not seized any fake bill so far.

Strong arm

Some candidates used the tried and tested tactic of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos: Scare and harass voters into voting for or against them or into staying away from the polling precincts.

In Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya, police said they received reports of harassment from supporters of rival candidates.

In Isabela, more soldiers were sent to Alicia town after armed men were seen guarding the house of Mayor Manuel Alejandro early yesterday.

In Cagayan, a party-list coordinator sought police help to stop the harassment of voters in the coastal towns of Ballesteros, Pamplona, Abulug and Sanchez Mira.

In the Mt. Province, candidates requested centralized voting in several villages in Sagada town for fear of harassment by the New People's Army.

Residents, however, opposed the request. More policemen were sent to the area instead.

In Malaybalay City, Jose Baldemor, a Lakas-NUCD leader, said five armed men warned residents in Barangay Palatapao at 5 a.m. yesterday that they would be killed if they went out to vote.

In Bacolod town in Lanao del Sur, Mayor Dimangadap Dipatuan allegedly declared that there would be no elections.

Col. Antonio Seville, deputy chief of the 401st ID, said Dipatuan would be arrested if indeed he made the announcement.

In Polangui, Albay, a barangay official identified as Melchor Friginal was abducted by two gunmen.

MONEY could buy everything, including votes for this candidate in Lanao del Sur whose picture in a sample ballot attached to a P100 bill was intentionally blurred to protect the PDI correspondent who took this photo.

New tricks

The popularity of new technology also led to the emergence of new election tricks.

In Olongapo City, text messages were passed around announcing the withdrawal of several candidates.

In Capiz, provincial election supervisor Margarita Oquendo said a new cheating tactic called "dagdag-singit" was committed in Panitan town.

The scheme involved inserting the names of people, presumably supporters of particular candidates, who are not registered in a precinct to allow them to vote.

Oquendo said some 100 supporters of Panitan's reelectionist Mayor Roberto Albaña wanted to vote although their names did not appear in the list of the provincial Comelec office

The names of these voters were found in the master list in precincts but they did not have voter's registration records, Oquendo said.

Chaos

Disorderly would be too weak a word to describe the conduct of the elections in many areas.

In Baguio, teachers complained of inadequate light bulbs in the polling precincts. Some said they may have to spend their own money to buy light bulbs, especially during the counting of votes.

In Dagupan City, some election officials were reported to have forgotten to put indelible ink on voters' index fingers. Indelible inks are used to make sure no voter votes more than once.

In Dagupan City, power outages plagued towns in the fifth and sixth districts since 6 a.m. yesterday.

The Napocor promised to restore power by noon.

Voting started late in Basco, Batanes after ballot boxes arrived in the town almost 9 a.m.

Residents earlier expressed fears that bad weather brought by tropical storm Crising would prevent the delivery of the ballots but the weather improved Monday.

Voting started at 10 a.m. and town officials and residents asked the Comelec to extend the voting hours. They were turned down.

In Cagayan Valley, officials said elections on Fuga and Calayan islands, two of the northernmost parts of the country, may either be postponed or delayed as boats carrying ballot boxes may not reach the areas due to bad weather.

In La Trinidad, Benguet, a different problem surfaced. Election officials in the town said there was an error in the printing of ballots for the town that led to the listing of only five vacant slots for board members in the second district when there should have been six.

Teachers refused to inform voters of the additional vacant slot until a written order explicitly told them to do so.

In Dinalupihan, Bataan, several precincts had no election watchers as of 10:45 a.m., delaying the voting.

Across the Visayas, election day began with the usual complaint of voting precincts opening late and of names missing from voters' lists.

Salvador Seguvia, candidate for board member for the third district of Negros Occidental, also complained that his name was not included in the official list of candidates in the district.

In Zamboanga City, voting precincts opened late because poll watchers were not on time.

In Marawi City, ballot boxes were distributed at 8:30 a.m., an hour-and-a-half late.

In Malaybalay City, voters at the Bukidnon National High School here were confused over clustering, a new method employed by the Comelec to reduce the number of election personnel needed to supervise the voting.

The voters said it took some time before they were able to locate their names.

Provincial election officer Lordino Salvaña said clustering means merging an average of three precincts with a total number of voters not exceeding 250.

In Lantapan, Bukidnon, several voters in Barangays Bugcaon and Kapitan Juan who could not find their names in the voters' lists just went home.

In Parang, Maguindanao, some 1,200 supporters of mayoral candidate Vivencio Bataga held a rally outside the Comelec office complaining that they could not find their names in the voters' list.

More than 3,000 ballots intended for Can-avid, Eastern Samar were instead brought to San Julian by an election officer identified as Antonino Barandino, said to be from the office of the deputy executive director for operations of the Comelec central office, according to Adolfo Ibañez, election director for Eastern Visayas.

Ibañez said he still has to determine how many precincts in Can-avid were affected. The town has 9,097 registered voters with 52 precincts in 26 barangays.

Countless voters in Laguna also failed to find their names in the voters' list.

Dozens of voters in Calapan City went through the same experience.

Vigilance

Groups and individuals sick and tired of dirty politics and elections shone out yesterday, however.

The night before the voting, youth groups and teenagers in Basco and Ivana towns in Batanes went out of their homes carrying torches to guard against anyone who may disrupt yesterday's elections or buy votes.

In Iloilo City, the Catholic Church-backed Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) sent teams to areas tagged as hotspots.

The PPCRV said it sent 4,000 volunteers to Iloilo and Guimaras provinces and Iloilo City to monitor the elections.

In Antique, the PPCRV complained that some members of the province's Board of Election Inspector barred many of its volunteer poll watchers because they were teenagers below voting age.

The poll watchers were fielded by the Antique PPCRV based in San Jose town. About 1,000 poll watchers were fielded throughout the province. About 60 percent of them are teenagers, of whom 20 percent are in the 15-17 age bracket.

The election inspectors only allowed the young volunteers inside the polling precincts past noon yesterday when a team was sent to present a letter from Antique's Coadjutor Bishop Romulo de la Cruz endorsing the youngsters.

Turnout

An estimated 70 to 80 percent of the 7.5 million registered voters in the three regions in the Visayas trooped to the polls yesterday

Vote-buying was blamed for the low turnout in the morning as voters waited for candidates to buy votes first before heading for the polling places.

Election officials estimated the voters' turnout in Eastern Visayas to be between 70-80 percent (voting pop: 1.7 million), 70 percent in Western Visayas (voting pop: 2.9 million) and 70-75 percent in Central Visayas (voting pop: 2.8 million)

Tight security

Policemen were deployed to 22 towns of Bohol and Tagbilaran City while soldiers were sent to the 25 other towns of the province.

An Inquirer team that toured Bohol late Sunday was stopped three times at Army and police checkpoints in the towns of Loon, Alicia and Catigbian.

In Obando, Bulacan, detained lawyer Edward Serapio, among those charged in one of the plunder cases against deposed President Joseph Estrada, failed to vote here despite the Sandiganbayan's ruling allowing him to exercise his right to suffrage.

Serapio reportedly informed officials of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group yesterday morning that he was not interested in participating in the elections.

Serapio's "no-show" frustrated the security preparations made by the Bulacan and Central Luzon police offices for Estrada's erstwhile personal lawyer.

Serapio, in a letter, reportedly thanked the Sandiganbayan and the CIDG for allowing him to exercise his right but said he chose not to vote.

Reports by Noralyn Mustafa, Alexander Young, H. Marcos Mordeno, Ellen Red, Grace Cantal-Albasin, Jonathan Ma, Violeta Gloria, Bobby Timonera, Froilan Gallardo, Rex Ortega, Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Maurice Malanes, Yolanda Fuertes, Tonette Orejas, Cesar Marquez, Eddalaine Figueroa, Vincent Cabreza, Richellou Mariano, Abigail Pajarito, Russell Arador, Ronald Dizon, Nathan Alcantara, Carmela Reyes, Juliet Cataluna, Myriam Garcia, Desiree Caluza, Leoncio Balbin, Ansbert Joaquin, Elizabeth Marcelo, Anselmo Roque, Ben Moses Ebreo, Joya-Santos Doctor, Pamela Herrera, Greg Refraccion, Villamor Visaya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and PDI Central Luzon Desk; Ma. Diosa Labiste, Carla Gomez, Jhunnex Napallacan, Cynthia Borgueta, Chito Fuentes, Felix Codilla III, Vicente Labro, Nagiel Bañacia, Romy Amarado, Alex Pal, Nestor Burgos Jr., Connie Fernandez and Hazel Villa, PDI Visayas Bureau; Romulo Ponte, Dennis Maliwanag, Roly Embile, Geraldford Ticke, Ruelle Albert Castro, Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Bid documents can be obtained from May 17 -22,2001, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the BAC Secretariat, (Room 1501) 15th floor- Supplies Section, Administrative Services Department, PHILHEALTH Citystate Centre Bldg.,709 Shaw Blvd. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

A Pre-bid Conference will be held on May 24, 2001 at 1:30 pm at the PhilHealth Boardroom (Rm. 1706).

Submission and opening of bids will be on May 31, 2001 at 1:30 pm at the same venue.

For inquiries, please call the BAC Secretariat at 637-9999 locals 1112 and 1102.

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Palace sets up monitor office

COTABATO CITY—Malacañang has set up a Mindanao-wide "monitoring and intervention center" to ensure honest and orderly elections in the region.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns, said the center will tap the services of radio stations, particularly Radio Mindanao Network and the Notre Dame Broadcasting Corp.

He said other media outlets may also join the non-partisan activity that would ensure a Mindanao-wide coverage of possible election irregularities and violent incidents.

Dureza said the center, with headquarters at the 4th floor of the SSS Building in Davao City, was to operate on a 24-hour basis starting May 12-15.

The other coordinating centers are in Cotabato City and General Santos City for the Central Mindanao region; in Zamboanga City for Western Mindanao; in Cagayan de Oro City and Iligan City for Northern Mindanao; and in Davao City for Southern Mindanao.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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- Salespersons are also entitled to cash prize if winner comes from their respective store. Salespersons must indicate his/her name on the warranty card before giving the same to the customer.
- Only entries received on or before July 30, 2001 will be included in the draw.
- Draw date for all qualified entries is on August 1, 2001, 2:00 pm at AVESCO Marketing Corporation, Aurora Boulevard corner Yale Street, Cubao, Quezon City.
- Grand draw will be witnessed by a DTI representative.
- A winner can only win once. If he/she should win more than once, he/she gets the prize with greater value.
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- Promo winners will be announced in the following newspapers - Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Philippine Star. Winners will be notified through registered mail
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Life Together.

Polls 'generally peaceful,' turnout 85%

(From page A1)

Comelec as a non-partisan citizens' arm to conduct voter education and poll watching functions. It has taken part in electoral processes since 1992.

"We have to realize that given the conditions (and) what happened in the past several months—the change of administration, People Power II and the attempted power grab—it's really remarkable for us. We have to congratulate ourselves, given all this political volatility," Tiglao told reporters.

He also said the President had commended the Philippine National Police, Armed Forces and Comelec for ensuring the peaceful conduct of the polls.

Benipayo said the Comelec hotlines had received complaints of voters not finding their names on the voters' lists or even their precincts, aside from reports of deficient "indelible" ink, but he pointed out that these problems were expected in any election.

Valdez expressed satisfaction in the "generally peaceful" exercise despite the usual problems in isolated places, such as missing voter names, wrong procedures and delay in the distribution of election paraphernalia, particularly ballot boxes.

Mindanao

Clarita Callar, Comelec director for Central Mindanao, said that in Matanog, Maguindanao, only 16 of the 60 teacher-members of the town's Board of Election Inspectors reported for poll duty.

The teachers were alleged to have been scared off because of threats from still unidentified political camps.

Two bomb explosions were heard at the back of the town hall as ballot boxes and other election paraphernalia were being distributed at the treasurer's office at 8:30 a.m.

No one was reported injured, but some of the ballot boxes were accidentally opened during the commotion.

Benipayo said it was possible that a failure of elections would be declared in Matanog and in Marawi City. Reelectionist Maguindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao had earlier asked the Comelec to declare a failure of elections not only in Matanog but also in the towns of Datu Udin Sinsuat, Mamasapano, Talayan, and Ampatuan because of alleged fraud, terrorism and harassment of voters, watchers and teachers in the precincts.

The Comelec en banc was still deliberating on Candao's request last night.

In Lanao del Sur, elections were not conducted in a number of precincts.

No election personnel showed up at the precincts in Madalum town and at seven precincts in Lumbayanagi town. In Marantao town, supporters of rival mayoral candidates fought over ballots.

In the towns of Lumba Bayabao, Poona Bayabao and Balindong, ballot boxes intended for several precincts were missing.

In Pantar, Lanao del Norte, the Comelec ordered the suspension of voting pending an investigation of the alleged questionable insertion in and removal of thousands of names in the voters' list.

"We will fix the date (for the conduct of the elections). Most probably this will coincide with the June plebiscite in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao," Benipayo said.

Visayas

A partial failure of elections was declared in Can-avid, Eastern Samar, after a representative of the Comelec's central office brought more than 3,000 ballots intended for the town to San Julian.

According to Adolfo Ibañez, election director for Eastern Visayas, the errant officer was identified as Antonino Barandino, who was said to be assigned at the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations of the Comelec central office.

Ibañez said he had yet to determine how many precincts in Can-avid were affected. The town has 9,097 registered voters, with 52 precincts in 26 barangays.

A failure of elections was also declared in one precinct in the hinterland village of Canatuan in Motiong, Samar, after unidentified persons snatched a ballot box from election inspectors before the start of voting.

Luzon

Officials said a failure of elections had been reported in some precincts in Abra and Kalinga.

They said policemen deputized to transport ballot boxes and election materials to the remote town of Tineg in Abra failed to arrive on Sunday and Monday as the Abra River overflowed and flooded parts of the only road leading to it.

Benipayo said special elections might be held in Tineg on Saturday. He said this was recommended by Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr., who is charge of the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The town has 2,000 registered voters.

In Kalinga, elections in three precincts in Pasil town were reset after armed men made off with the ballot boxes Sunday afternoon.

In Cagayan, elections in Fuga and Calayan were delayed as bad weather prevented ferry boats and motorized bancas transporting ballot boxes and election paraphernalia from reaching the islands yesterday.

In the country's northernmost province of Batanes, voting was extended to 7 p.m. because the plane carrying ballot boxes and other election materials arrived in Basco town only at 8:50 a.m.

The plane, which came from Laoag City, could not land at the Basco airport because of poor visibility in the area.

Voting started between 10 and 11 a.m., and, in some areas in the remote island towns of Itbayat and Sabtang, at 1 p.m.

But officials described the elections in Batanes as "very peaceful and very smooth."

On Sunday night, a power outage hit many parts of Batanes. Members of youth groups in Basco and Ivana towns left their houses carrying torches to stand guard against persons who might want to disrupt the elections or buy votes.

Reports reaching the Cordillera police based in Camp Dangwa in Benguet also said members of an armed group snatched the ballot boxes intended for 250 voters in three precincts in Barangay Balatoc in Pasil.

Volunteers

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, media director of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said the PPCRV and the other volunteers of the CBCP would help guard the canvassing of votes up to the municipal and provincial levels.

Valdez said the PPCRV expected to have volunteers "as long as needed," or until the canvassing is completed.

According to Valdez, the PPCRV received reports that Apolinario Mabini High School in Tala, Caloocan City, still did not have ballot boxes five minutes before the closing of the poll precincts.

She said some volunteers were barred from certain precincts in spite of proper identification and accreditation from the Comelec.

PPCRV volunteers helped voters find their names in the voters' lists and their assigned precincts.

Senior volunteers who could not perform duties requiring physical exertion have organized themselves into groups of "prayer warriors." *With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Norman Bordadora, Ma. Ceres P. Doyo and Sunshine F. Yu in Manila; Edwin Fernandez, Nash Maulana, Violeta Gloria, Rex Godinez Ortega, Froilan Gallardo, and Bobby Timonera, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau; and Joya Santos-Doctor, Juliet Cataluña and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

HIGH-TECH monitoring of the elections in hot spot, Lanao del Sur. In Kampo Ranao, Marawi City, S/Sgt. Demetrio Cabarliza Jr. logs in. BOBBY TIMONERA

Markets seen to move up . . .

(From page A1)

as a test of the popular support of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Results for some House seats could emerge late on Monday, but results for the Senate race were likely to take several days.

Standard Chartered Bank said in its client report that the election was critical in establishing Ms Macapagal firmly on the political saddle following the May Day attack on the Palace by thousands of supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Joey Roxas, president of Eagle Equities, said there was a possibility of sell-off due to the good news of a peaceful election, but such action would be short-lived.

"I think the run-up will continue especially if the administration People Power Coalition party will gain more than eight Senate seats. There's a possibility some might sell on news. But any sell-off should be bought," Roxas said.

Investors earlier said they would wait until after the elections before aggressively positioning themselves in the market.

"We're almost halfway (past) the obstacle. This might be taken favorably by the market. Usually, the market rebounds after election. The next resistance is at 1,550 with support at 1,460," said Astro del Castillo, research chief of A&A Securities.

"If the majority of administration candidates win, it will provide more stability for the Macapagal administration which should help it focus more on economic and social agenda. This will entice foreign investors to take another look at the Philippines," Del Castillo added.

Standard Chartered said in its report the peaceful election would also provide more flexibility in monetary policy.

The bank said a widely expected 50-basis point cut in the Fed Funds rate at the Federal Open Market Committee on Tuesday would allow the Philippine central bank to lower its benchmark overnight rate by an equal magnitude at its regular policy meeting on Thursday.

"But an end to political confusion and the government's undivided attention on economics will allow the Philippine central bank to open the taps even further with or without Fed easing," it said. *Reuters*

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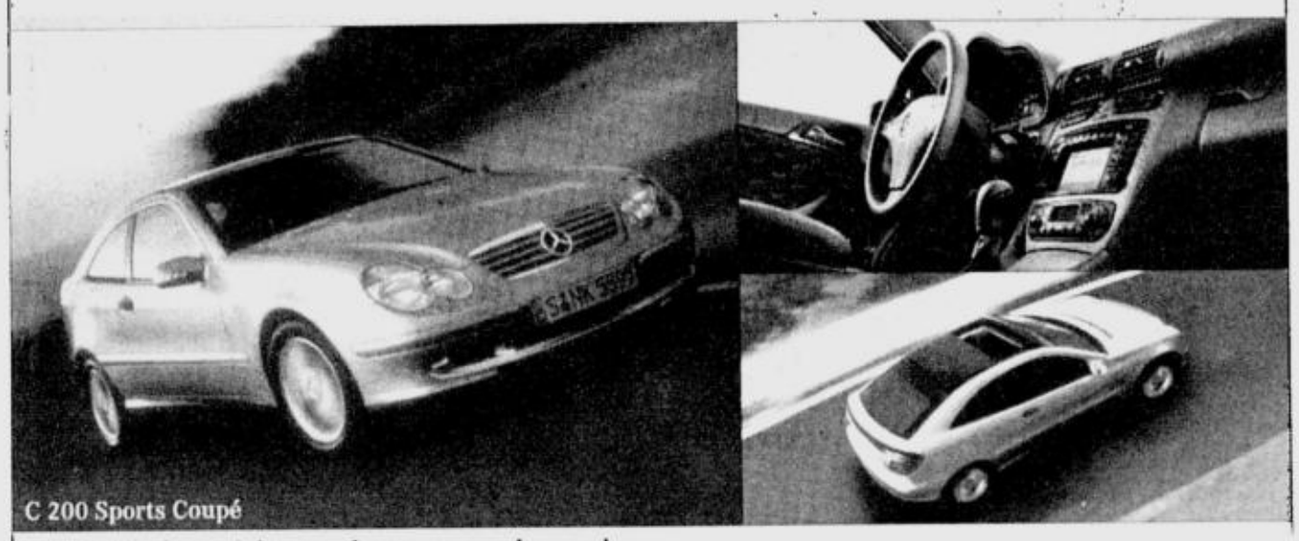

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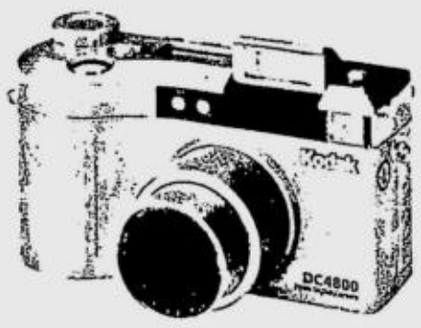

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0942 Series of 2001

Poll cheats devise new tricks

(From page A1)

coupons promising P2,000-5,000 to those who would vote for congressional candidate Mark Jimenez.

In Palawan, fake gift checks for P1,000 and P2,000, supposedly from Puerto Princesa Mayor and gubernatorial candidate Edward Hagedorn, were distributed all over Palawan province, especially in communities known to be Hagedorn strongholds.

Yesterday, WPD director Senior Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. said his men were able to seize "Mark Jimenez" coupons promising a total of P2 million.

The 17 suspects, aged between 15 and 52, all jobless and residents of Pandacan and Paco in Manila and Pasig City, were released without being charged.

In a press conference, the Manila police chief said it should be up to the politicians involved to file charges.

"It seems these people were merely used," Pasinos told reporters. "We don't know what to accuse them of."

The money was apparently supposed to be redeemed from the area's barangay chairs, who promptly reported the scheme to the police when eager voters began streaming into their offices to claim their money.

Printed on the rectangular coupons were two angels, the words "MJ sa Kongreso" and the false instruction that each coupon "entitles the bearer to the amount of P5,000 (or P2,000)."

On the stub of the coupon were blank spaces for the voter's name, address, precinct number and the school where he or she voted. At the back, were the words: "*Tulungan din po natin si Veloso at Logarta para sa Konseho*," referring to comedian Luciano "Lou" Veloso and Julio Logarta, who are running for the city council.

Paid P1,000

Voters, frustrated upon learning that they would not be richer by P2,000 to P5,000, angrily led the barangay officials and WPD mobile patrol units to the suspects. Two were arrested in Barangay 591 about 2 a.m.

Thirteen more were nabbed an hour later along Damka Street in Barangay 598. The remaining two were arrested around 3:15 a.m. on Anonas Street in Barangay 628.

The 15 men and two women who were arrested told investigators that they were "commissioned as poll watchers" by Jimenez's rival Pablo Ocampo III, and said that the stubs were given to them the night before.

They claimed they attended a briefing on distributing the coupons around 8 p.m. at the GSIS City Hotel along Anonas Street..

They said they were given P1,000 each and tasked to distribute the coupons and campaign flyers in specific areas in the city's District 6.

Both the Ocampo and Jimenez camps were quick to denounce the scheme and vehemently deny any hand in it.

"I'm not the one behind this. I'd never do such a thing. I can't stomach it," Ocampo told the INQUIRER in an interview.

Ocampo is seeking to replace daughter Sandy, as District 6 representative in Congress. Last week, Sandy Ocampo filed a disqualification case against Jimenez for allegedly bribing voters with money and grocery items.

Stranded

In Palawan, the other phony checks, which carried the obviously faked signature of Hagedorn, instructed recipients to redeem the money at the Hagedorn campaign headquarters in Puerto Princesa at 4 p.m. Sunday.

The scheme was evidently designed to make Hagedorn supporters in far-flung towns travel to Puerto Princesa where, upon discovering that the checks were worthless, they would be stranded and would have no time to return home to cast their votes yesterday.

Voters started showing up at the campaign headquarters as early as Sunday morning, swelling to hundreds later in the day. Some came from towns as far away as Bataraza, Española, Brookes Point and Rio Tuba.

Hagedorn's staff later went on local radio and television to expose the scheme, preventing a politically disastrous exodus of Hagedorn supporters from their voting districts.

One of the recipients of the fake gift checks, a young matron from the town of Roxas, executed a notarized affidavit stating that she recognized the source of the fake check as a candidate for councilor identified with the ticket of Gov. Joel T. Reyes.

The victims vowed to express their feelings through their votes when they returned home—if they got there in time.

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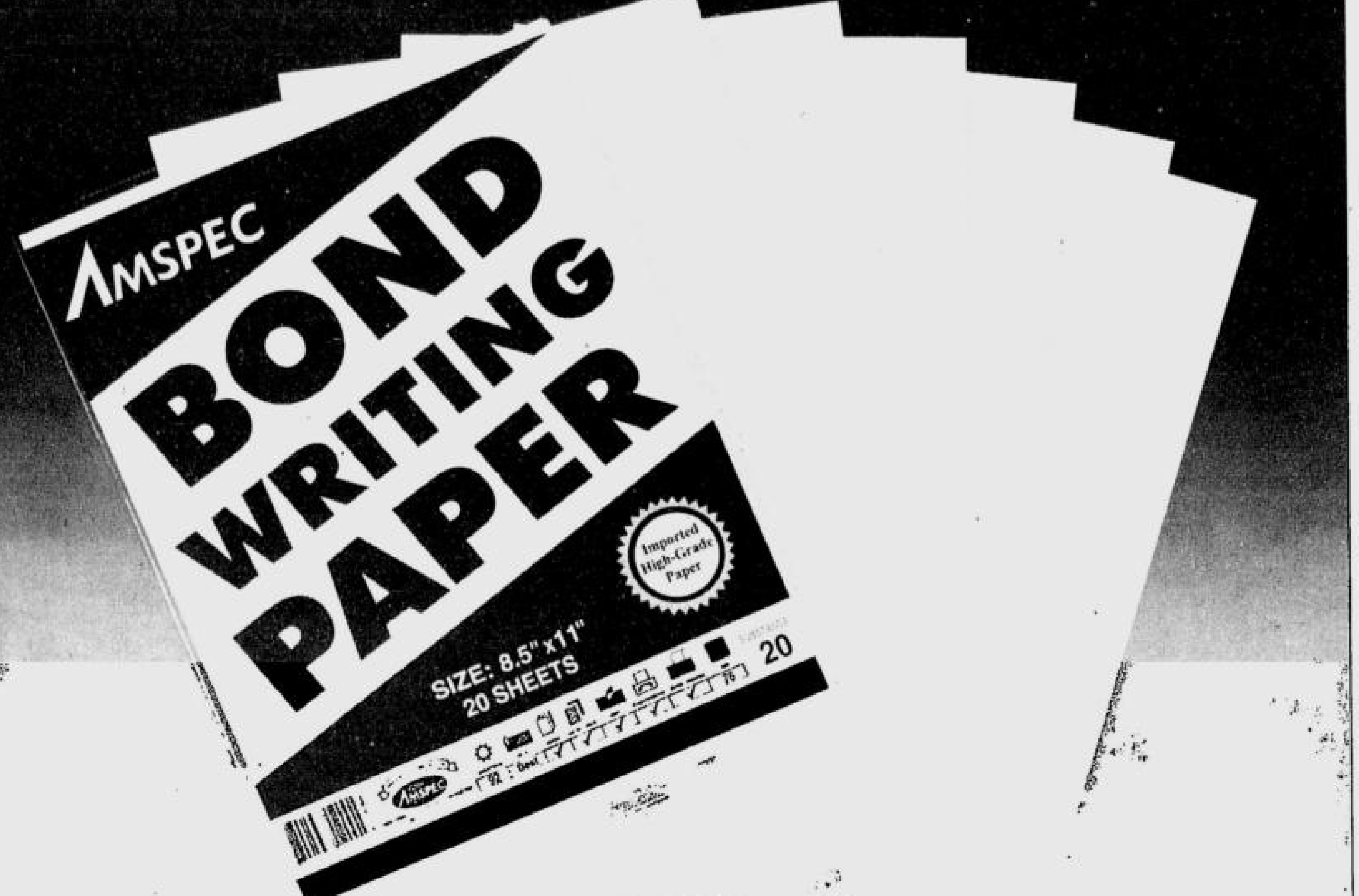

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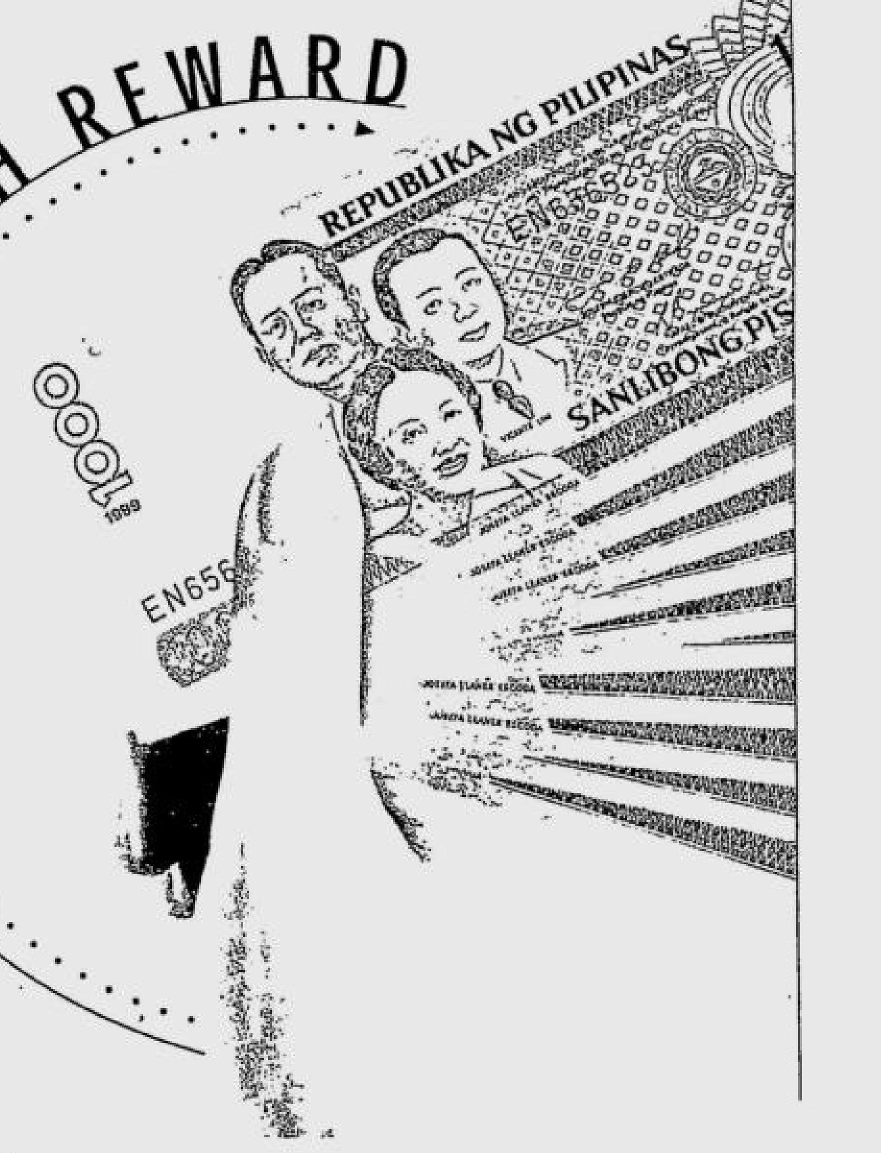

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a. MONTHLY DRAW	PAYMENT PERIOD	PRIZES	NO. OF WINNERS DEPOSITOR	CASHIER
April 20, 2001	March 15 - April 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
May 25, 2001	April 15 - May 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
June 22, 2001	May 15 - June 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
July 20, 2001	June 15 - July 14, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
August 24, 2001	July 15 - August 15, 2001	₱2,000	30	30
b. GRAND DRAW August 24, 2001	March 15 - August 15, 2001	₱10,000	15	15
c. VENUE: Metrobank Head Office, Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City Time 3.00 pm				

4. Thirty (30) winning numbers will be drawn in the monthly raffle and fifteen (15) will be drawn in the Grand Draw.
5. Each winning number will have a corresponding winning cashier who will win the same prize as the depositor's.
6. Cash prizes will be credited to the depositor's account; winning cashiers will be issued manager's checks.
7. A participant can win only once in each draw.
8. Winning and non-winning raffle numbers are disqualified for the succeeding monthly draws but will be included in the Grand Draw
9. Winning depositors can join again in the succeeding monthly draws (including the Grand Draw).
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail.
11. The winning cashier must present the notice and any valid ID within 60 days from the receipt of the registered notice. The prize can be claimed at:
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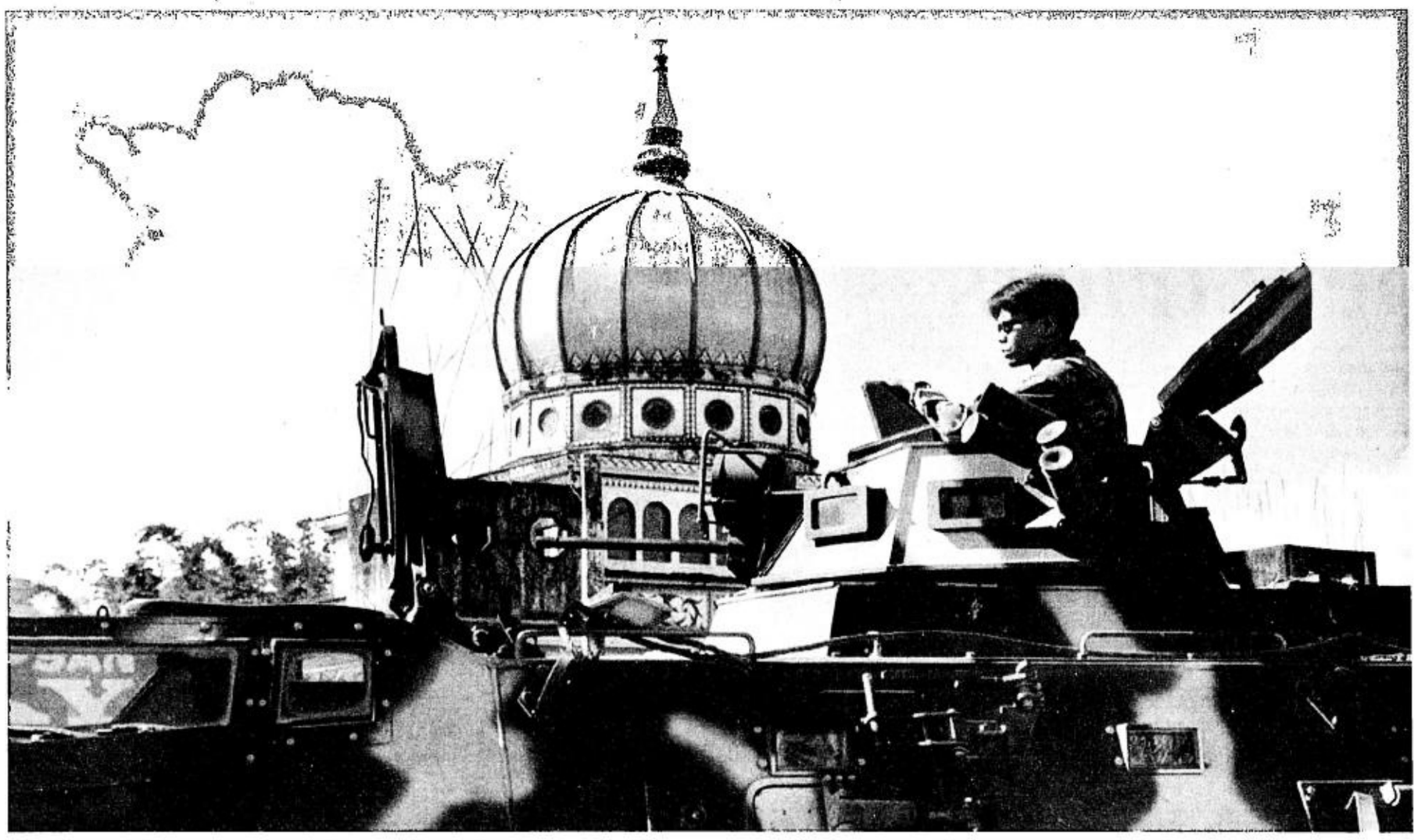
(From page A1)

AMA-SMART TALLY as of 11:32 p.m., May 14		
22 **Yasay**, Perfecto	(Ind.)	128,322
23 **Madrigal**, Jamby	(LDP/PnM)	117,332
24 **Rasul**, Santanina	(Ind./PnM)	116,602
25 **Chato**, Liwayway	(Ind./PPC)	111,425
26 **Tamano**, Ombra	(LDP/PnM)	76;921
27 **Canoy**, Reuben	(LDP/PnM)	49,203
28 **Adaza**, Homobono	(Ind.)	22,567
29 **Morato**, Manuel	(Ind.)	22,188
30 **Lozano**, Oliver	(KBL)	21,451
31 **Navarro**, Rod	(Ind.)	17,667
32 **Sabio**, Camilo	(Ind.)	13,492
33 **Chavez**, Melchor	(Ind.)	12,585
34 **Nueva**, Norma	(Ind.)	8,134
35 **Casil**, Juan	(Ind.)	6,594
36 **Bajunaid**, Moner	(Ind.)	4,713
37 **Gil**, Eddie	(Ind.)	2,273

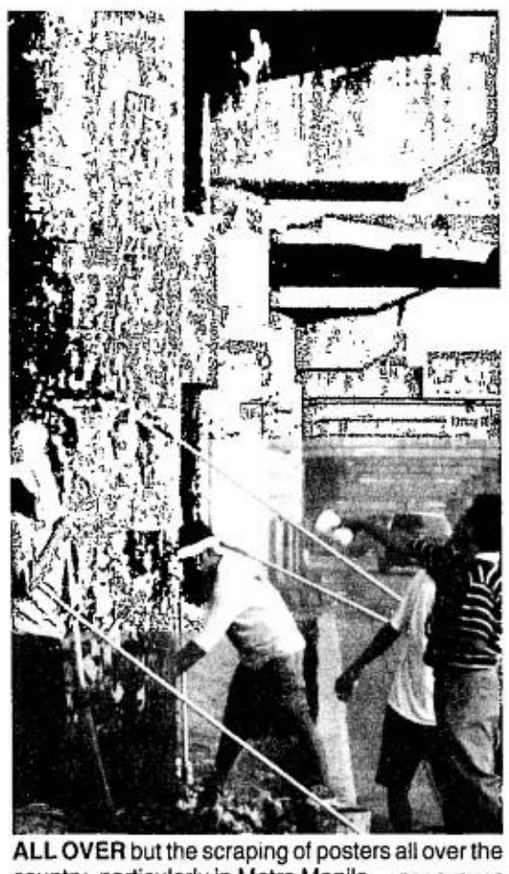
SIGHTS ON ELECTION DAY



RELIGION and armed force mix it up in Bubong, Lanao del Sur, on Election Day. FROILAN GALLARDO

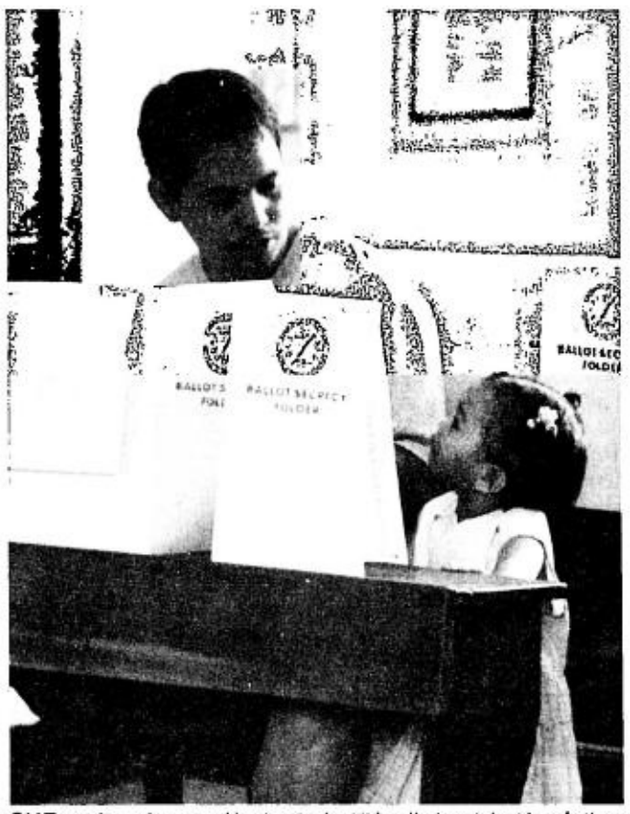
HEAVILY armed guards of the Army's 29th Infantry Battalion escort ballot boxes and other election materials to Lumbatan, Lanao del Sur. BOBBY TIMONERA

WARNING shots had to be fired to stop a fistfight among the candidates' respective followers in Bubong, Lanao del Sur. BOBBY TIMONERA



ALL OVER but the scraping of posters all over the country, particularly in Metro Manila. E.BACASMAS

MAN of the Hour: Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo. ERIK ARAZAS



SHE can't understand just yet what it is all about, but her father voting in Tambo Elementary School, Parañaque, knows the future of his child is at stake. ROGER MARGALLO

WAITING for the Comelec to deliver the materials at the treasurer's office in Caloocan. And this was already 11 a.m. on Election Day. *(Story on Page A25).* RANDY HORMILLOSA

BABY in dreamland while his mother votes in Talon Uno, Las Piñas. ROGER MARGALLO

Unofficial returns give PPC 8-5 lead

(From page A1)

Final results are not expected for days or even longer in a country where vote counting is done by hand and often is hampered by protests and violence.

Hours after the voting, the Macapagal administration and the opposition yesterday began predicting victory in an election that has underscored the country's polarization.

Aquino noted that unlike the past elections there was a "heightened interest" from the public to immediately find out the outcome of the elections.

He said the public's interest could be attributed to the political upheaval in the country. The country has been divided over the arrest and detention of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Supporters of Estrada led a five-day protest at the Edsa Shrine, which ended in their storming of Malacañang on May 1. Six people were killed and more than 100 wounded in the siege of the Palace that prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to declare a 6-day state of rebellion in Metro Manila.

Ms Macapagal has accused the allies of Estrada of using the poor in their bid to seize power.

Despite campaign setbacks, including the arrests of some of their senatorial prospects on rebellion charges, opposition leaders claimed they expect the formidable political machinery that they quietly built to win six to nine of the 13 seats open in the Senate.

"We're confident that the opposition will win big in these elections," said Ronaldo Puno, PnM spokesperson.

His counterpart in the administration's People Power Coalition (PPC), Dodie Limcaoco, called that "wishful thinking."

Ms Macapagal has called on Filipinos to vote straight for PPC candidates, most of whom joined huge street protests that toppled then-President Joseph Estrada in January over alleged corruption.

Although they expect a sweep, Limcaoco said they could get at least nine senatorial seats.

Both camps said the balloting seemed generally peaceful and orderly, except for pockets of violence and confusion by people who had to fill up to 30 local and national slots.

Puno said the opposition faced considerable challenges. Estrada and his son Jinggoy, both detained on corruption allegations, had limited influence from detention. Jinggoy, a mayor of their Manila suburban district of San Juan, used to head a nationwide league of mayors.

"Our two best campaigners were thrown in jail," Puno said.

In addition, several opposition senatorial candidates were charged by the government with allegedly plotting to topple Ms Macapagal.

One was arrested and later released; two others went in hiding during the campaign until Ms Macapagal allowed them to surface with a guarantee of no arrest.

Despite the crackdown, Puno said the opposition meticulously built its network of support that reached down to rural grassroots leaders nationwide.

Limcaoco cited recent surveys showing strong support for the administration senatorial ticket as concrete evidence of the edge they have in the balloting.

The elections would give crucial control of Congress to either Ms Macapagal or the opposition, but Puno claimed the opposition would help the administration succeed whatever the outcome.

"Let us try now to remove the stench of confrontation and an insinuation of rebellion," Puno said. "There is no such thing." *With reports from Christine Avendaño and AP*

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2001 elections . . .

(From page A1)

is reportedly supporting a candidate in the gubernatorial race.

Five other people were reported killed in Davao del Sur, Cotabato, Leyte, Cebu and Camarines Sur.

Mortar shells allegedly fired by Moro separatist rebels struck near the Matanog town hall in Maguindanao on Monday morning as election materials were being handed out.

No one was reported injured, but officials declared a failure of election in the town. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

In Indang, Cavite, an unidentified man also lobbed a grenade into a polling precinct shortly before dawn, causing no injuries.

President Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to go after those responsible for the killings.

"She does not want these incidents ignored. She wants to send a message that all election-related violence must be dealt with the full force of the law," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Even so, Tiglao said the scale of violence in this year's polls was "not something extraordinary."

"We have to congratulate ourselves (that) given all political volatility in the past several months, we were able to conduct the first election in the new millennium," he said.

The Philippine National Police chief, however, warned that the death toll could further rise in the coming days.

"We expect tension during the counting, but we are prepared," PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza told a news briefing in Camp Crame.

Still, Mendoza said he still considered this year's elections "generally peaceful (so far), except for some isolated incidents."

"This is not bloody as in past elections but it is very intense, especially in the local level," he said.

Figures from the PNP itself, however, showed that only 45 people were killed in the 1998 presidential election.

Seventy-six people were killed in the 1995 congressional and local elections. In the 1992 presidential election, 49 people were killed.

The head of the Armed Forces Task Force HOPE 2001, which is in charge of ensuring honest, orderly and peaceful elections, said he was hoping the death toll would no longer rise.

"The elections are relatively peaceful," said Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, adding the task force would remain in force until the counting is over.

NPA killings

Calimlim said the death toll "has been sensationalized because of the killing of Congressman Punzalan and Mayor Platon."

The AFP vice chief of staff was referring to the killing of Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr. in Tiaong, Quezon, on May 12 and the assassination of Tanauan City Mayor Cesar Platon in Tuy, Batangas, on May 7.

The communist New People's Army has claimed responsibility for the killing of Punzalan and Platon, saying the two officials were meted out the death penalty for their "crimes against the people."

The NPA, which has also been blamed for the deaths of 17 other people, accounts for more than a fourth of the killings in this year's elections.

In his press briefing, Mendoza said the NPA rebels had been reduced to "being hired goons paid by politicians to get rid of their opponents."

He said the Macapagal administration would "definitely" raise the issue in ongoing peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front in Oslo, Norway.

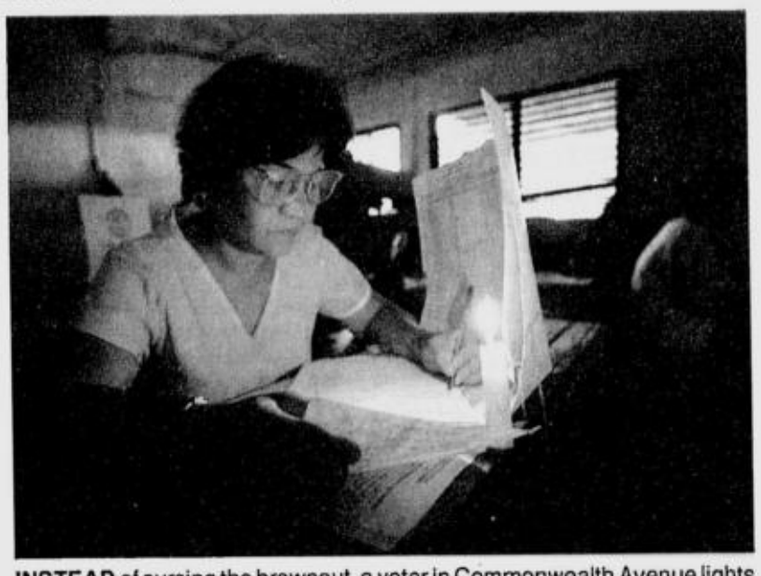
For their part, two senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition condemned the rise in election violence, saying it was dividing the nation further.

"All sides should reach out to one another so we could move on. We can't afford this disunity," said Makati Rep. Joker Arroyo.

Economist Winnie Monsod blamed the violence on certain candidates who are trying to resist a shift to a new kind of politics.

"Whenever there is a change, the people who want to retain the status quo are going to fight because their lifestyle is in jeopardy," Monsod said.

"These are the kind of people we should get rid of because they represent traditional politics at its worse," she added. *With reports from PDI regional bureaus, Carlito Pablo, Christine Herrera, Armand Nocum, AP and Reuters*



INSTEAD of cursing the brownout, a voter in Commonwealth Avenue lights up the darkness. DENNIS SABANGAN

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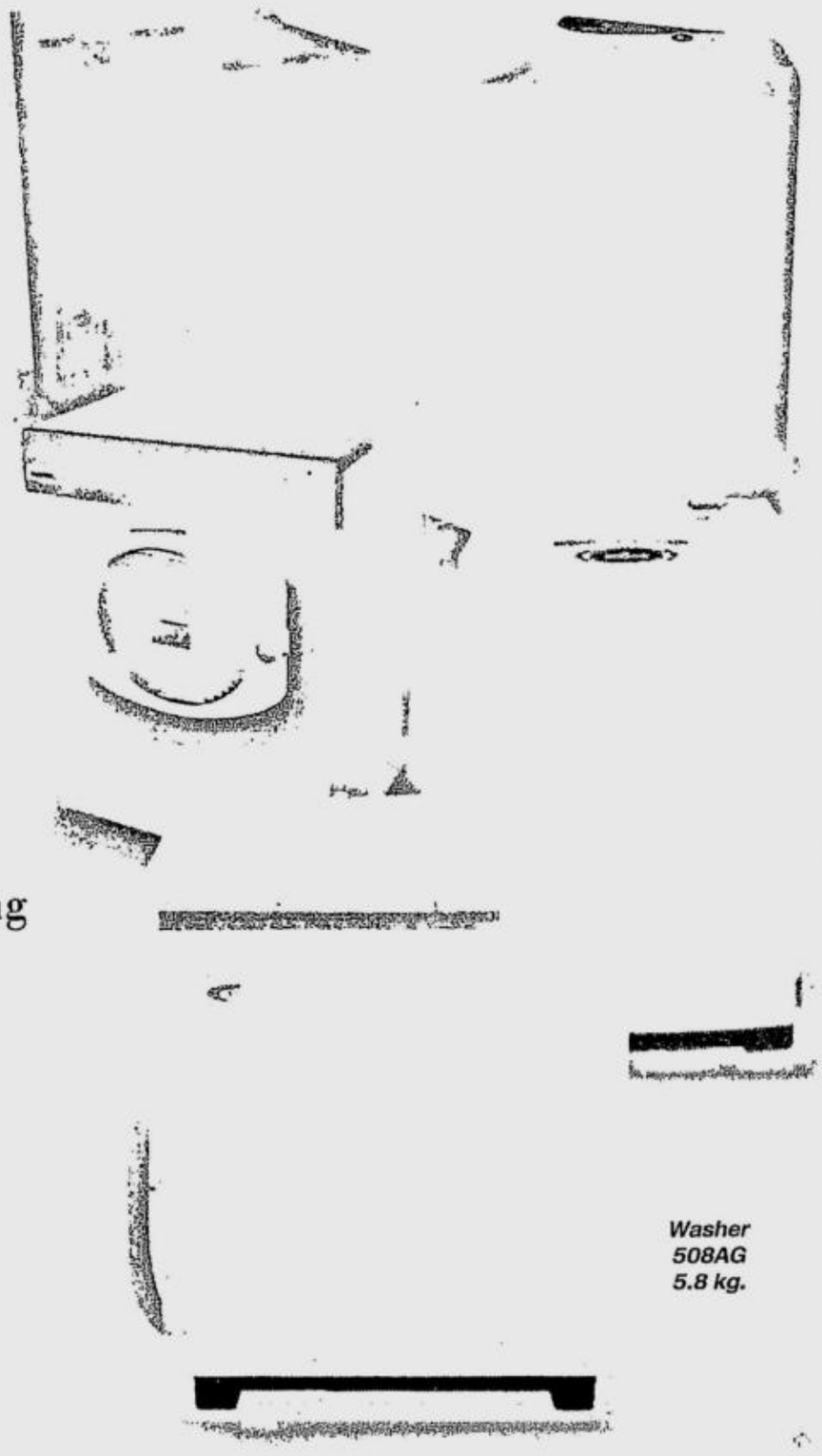

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BRYANT SHINES

Lakers sweep Kings

SACRAMENTO, California—The Los Angeles Lakers, led by 48 points from Kobe Bryant, completed a four-game sweep of the Sacramento Kings with a 119-113 victory on Sunday, their 15th win in a row.

Even after Shaquille O'Neal fouled out, the defending NBA champion showed no mercy in wresting away control in the fourth quarter to advance to the Western Conference finals.

The Lakers, who trailed 84-80 after three quarters, won the final quarter 39-29 as Bryant, who finished with a game-high 16 rebounds, scored 12 of his points. He finished 15-for-29 from the floor and 17-for-19 from the foul line.

O'Neal wound up with 25 points and 10 rebounds. Derek Fisher added 20 points.

Predrag Stojakovic led Sacramento with 26 points and Hidayet Turkoglu scored 22.

Chris Webber, in what was probably his last game for the Kings, scored 21 points — just two in the fourth quarter — on 8-for-25 shooting with six turnovers.

The Lakers, who won their last eight regular-season games and all seven playoff games so far, await the winner of the conference semifinals between the San Antonio Spurs and Dallas Mavericks. The Spurs lead 3-1 and host Monday's game.

Career highs

"I felt pretty good from the opening tip," said Bryant whose 48 points and 16 rebounds were playoff career highs.

"My legs felt good. I felt strong physically and mentally. I felt in tune with the game. When you have a feeling like that, you really want to be patient and not rush things."

With O'Neal on the bench with foul trouble for most of the final period, the Lakers needed Bryant to take charge. He scored 15 points in the fourth quarter, finding the right balance of when to shoot the ball and when to share it.

"I can't say enough about the performance of Kobe Bryant today," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "He was terrific out there on the floor."

"Kobe Bryant was just fantastic; he was possessed," Kings coach Rick Adelman said. "Even when he missed shots, he got them back."

The performance was reminiscent of Game Four of the 2000 NBA Finals, when Bryant took control after O'Neal fouled out and led the Lakers to an overtime victory in Indiana.

"Our team did a heck of a job today," O'Neal said. "Kobe had a phenomenal game."

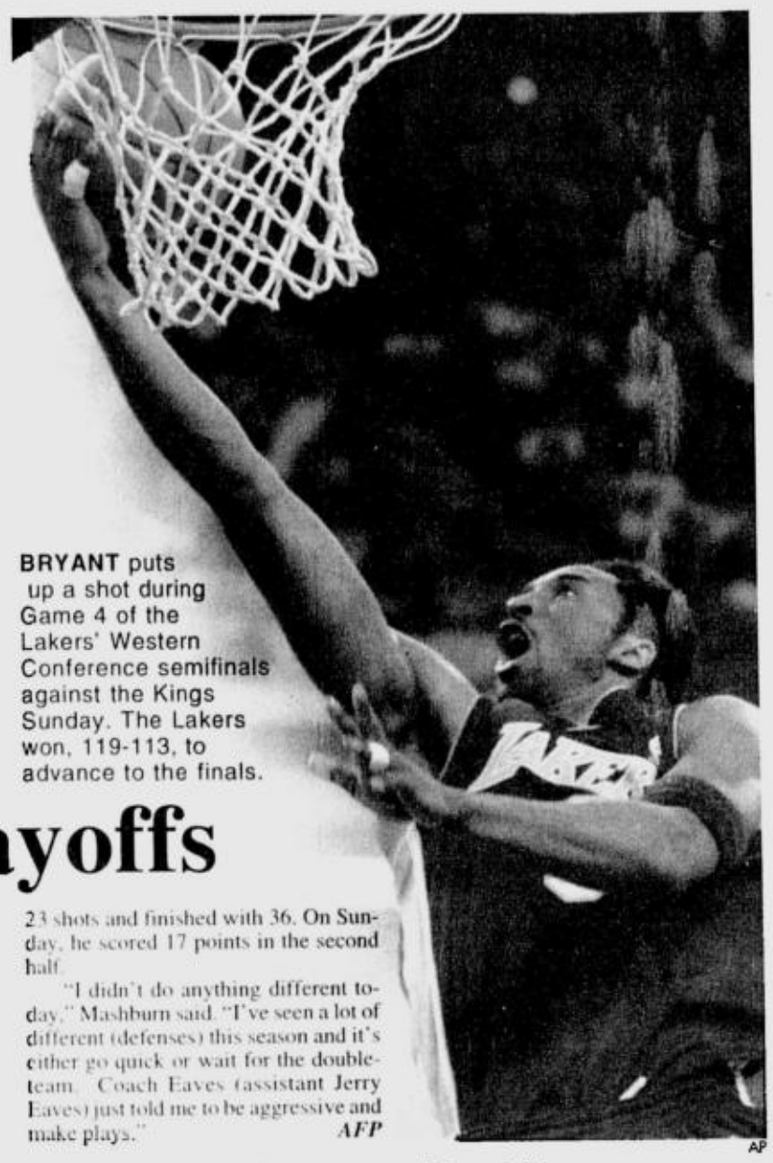
"I was so happy that we won," Bryant said. "It was such a tough ballgame, such an emotional ballgame. It was emotionally draining and to fight through it as a unit and pull through it the way we did. It felt so good."

Unsure Kings

While the Lakers move on, the Kings are unsure of their next move. This was their third straight postseason appearance with a team built around Webber, who becomes a free agent on July 1 and is believed to be headed elsewhere.

"Now that C-Webb isn't going to be here anymore, they're going back to the expansionism," O'Neal said. "I don't think he'll be here."

Webber added: "It's definitely disappointing. The truth of the matter is the Lakers are a great team. *AP, Reuters*



BRYANT puts up a shot during Game 4 of the Lakers' Western Conference semifinals against the Kings Sunday. The Lakers won, 119-113, to advance to the finals.

AP

Sixers, Hornets pull level in NBA playoffs

LOS ANGELES— The Toronto Raptors celebrated too soon Sunday, and Allen Iverson's three-pointer snapped a tie, thwarted a rally and lifted Philadelphia to a key victory in their National Basketball Association playoff series.

The 84-79 win in Toronto evened the Eastern Conference semi-final series at two games apiece.

In Charlotte, Jamal Mashburn scored nine of his 31 points in the fourth quarter as the Hornets held Milwaukee to just five baskets in the final period en route to an 85-78 win that knotted the other Eastern Conference semi-final series at 2-2.

The 6-foot-8-inch forward again proved to be too much to handle for Milwaukee forwards Glenn Robinson and Tim Thomas, making all the big baskets in the fourth quarter while the Bucks went cold.

"He's really opening some eyes in this series," Hornets coach Paul Silas said. "(The talent) has been there all along, and the playoffs is where reputations are made and he's making his reputation now."

Branded as the scapegoat for the Miami Heat's past playoff failures, Mashburn took vengeance against his former club, averaging 23.7 points in Charlotte's first-round sweep. After scoring 42 points in the first two games of this series on 16-of-41 shooting, Mashburn has dominated the last two games.

In Game Three, he converted 15-of-23 shots and finished with 36. On Sunday, he scored 17 points in the second half.

"I didn't do anything different today," Mashburn said. "I've seen a lot of different (defenses) this season and it's either go quick or wait for the double-team. Coach Eaves (assistant Jerry Eaves) just told me to be aggressive and make plays." *AFP*

Cops stop Rodman's b-day bash

NEWPORT BEACH, California—Turning 40 isn't about to quiet Dennis Rodman.

Police shut down a birthday bash at the former NBA star's house over the weekend for what police said was an illegal helicopter landing and a live concert by two rock bands.

The party started about 2:30 p.m. Saturday when Rodman made a dramatic entrance in a helicopter that circled his house several times before landing on the beach, police spokesman Mike McDermott said.

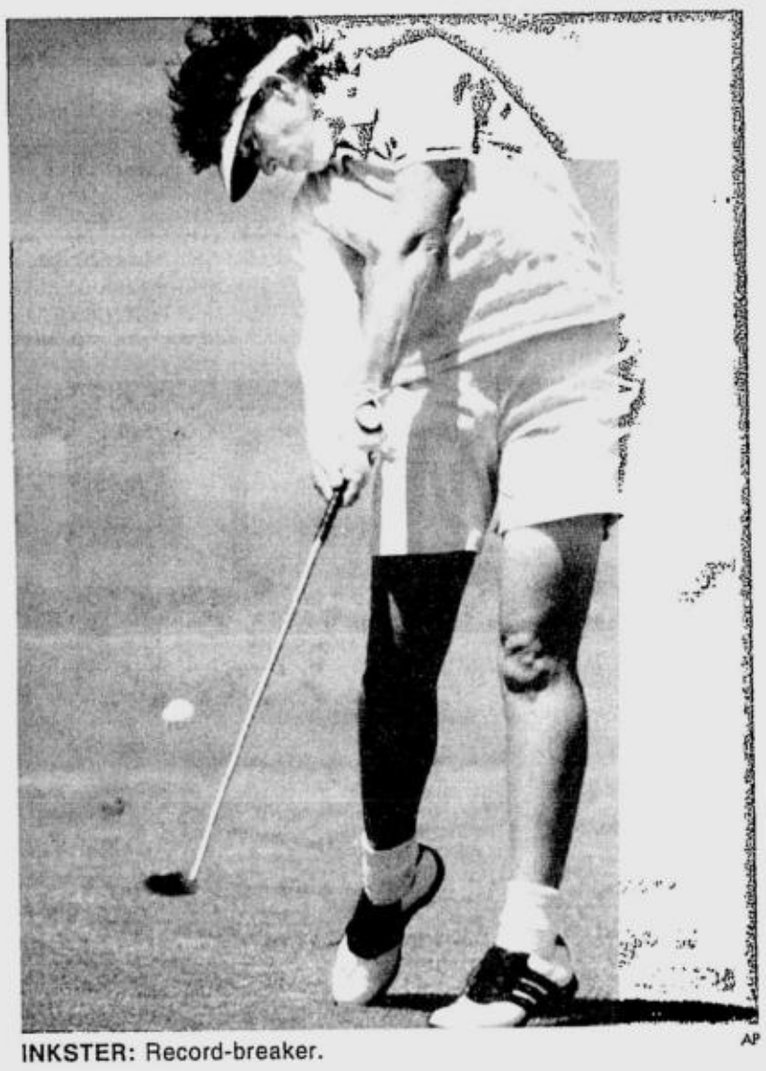
About 300 people came to celebrate Rodman's 40th birthday, with most of the guests spilling onto the public beach outside his home.

By late afternoon about 30 police officers—some in riot gear—had gathered nearby as Rodman's lawyers negotiated with the district attorney's office and Rodman argued with police.

McDermott said Rodman eventually agreed to move the celebration to his nearby restaurant. No arrests were made.

A rock concert on his patio prompted about 50 complaints from irate neighbors, police said. It was the latest in a series of confrontations with neighbors and police since Rodman moved into the beachfront home several years ago.

Previous Rodman gatherings have resulted in more than 70 police visits and more than $ 3,000 in fines for violating local noise ordinances, according to city records. *AP*



INKSTER: Record-breaker.

AP

Inkster wins 26th title

FRANKLIN, Tennessee—With all eyes on Annika Sorenstam, Hall of Famer Juli Inkster erased a four-shot deficit Sunday to capture her 26th LPGA Tour title.

Inkster trailed by nine shots after the opening round but chipped away at the gap, finally using a seven-under-par 65 to leapfrog five players — including Sorenstam.

The runner-up here last year, Inkster broke the tournament record with a 72-hole total of 14-under 274 and won 120,000 dollars to climb into the top 10 on the LPGA Tour money list.

Sorenstam trailed by one stroke after the third round was completed early Sunday morning and was in position for her LPGA-best sixth win of the season and 11th in her last six starts.

But the superstar Swede, who had rallied in the final round in 10 of her 28 career wins, fell short with a second straight 70 that left her third at 12-under 276.

A second straight three-under 69 secured second place for Scotland's Catriona Matthew at 275.

It was another difficult final round for defending champion Pat Hurst. Trying to protect a one-shot lead, she struggled to a two-over 74 and finished five strokes back at 279.

A month ago in Los Angeles, Hurst took a three-shot lead into the final round but failed to even make the playoff as Sorenstam roared from 10 strokes back to win. *AFP*

Spurs aim to seal series vs Dallas

SAN ANTONIO —For the San Antonio Spurs, the loss to Dallas in Game 4 of their NBA playoff series was just a slight setback.

Now the Spurs want to finish off the Mavericks on Monday night to avoid another trip up Interstate 35.

Winning Game 5 is critical, said David Robinson.

"You never want to put yourself in a position where you let them up off the mat, where you give them confidence," said Robinson, who had 25 points and 13 rebounds in San Antonio's 112-108 loss Saturday.

By squeezing out the win, the Mavs averted being swept out of the Western Conference semifinals. The Spurs now lead the best-of-seven series 3-1.

"We're playing very solid," Robinson said. "And we're going to need to continue to do that."

After three Spurs blowouts, the Mavericks came out strong as they faced elimination on their homecourt.

All five starters scored in double digits. Michael Finley hit clutch shots. Dirk Nowitzki scored four of his 30 points late in the fourth quarter after being elbowed in the mouth and losing a tooth.

"We cannot take them lightly at all," Robinson said. "They've proven they have a lot of guts, coming back in that situation. We really put a lot of pressure on them. We came at them and they made tough shots down the stretch."

The Mavs, who shot terribly in the first three games, scored more points in regulation than any Spurs opponent this season and 19 more than any Spurs opponent in eight playoff games.

"I don't know if we can play much better than that," Dallas coach Don Nelson said. *AP*

Damron withstands Verplank challenge

IRVING, Texas—First came the comeback bid from Tiger Woods, then a gutsy challenge by hometown favorite Scott Verplank. Robert Damron withstood it all Sunday to win the Byron Nelson Classic on the fourth playoff hole for his first PGA Tour victory

Damron, after leaving two potential winning putts on the lip, rolled an 18-foot (5.4-meter) shot into the heart of the cup on the par-3 17th and thrust his fist into the air. Verplank's birdie putt from 15 feet (4.5 meters) never had a chance.

"It's been such a long day, so many holes," Damron said. "It was so up and down. It hasn't really soaked in yet."

Woods was long gone when the winning putt fell, although he managed to make it interesting with seven birdies on his first 12 holes to tie for the lead. He finished with a 7-under 63, and wound up three strokes back after a strong finish from Damron and Verplank.

Damron became the first player in seven years to make the Nelson Classic his first victory, and it came in his 132nd start on tour. He earned $ 810,000, more than he ever won in any of his four full seasons on tour, and became a surprising winner in a field that featured five of the top seven players in the world and 23 of the top 30 on the money list.

Damron and Verplank, who was trying to become the first Dallas-born player to win the Nelson Classic, closed with 66s to finish at 263.

Verplank turned in a gritty performance with birdies on three of the last four holes. The final one was a birdie putt from 15 feet (4.5 meters) that forced the third straight Nelson playoff. He never had birdie putt longer than 18 feet (5.4 meters) in the playoff, and three of them were one turn away from falling.

DAMRON

Woods, in his first tournament since winning the Masters four weeks ago to make it a clean sweep of the majors, wasn't particularly sharp. Still, he required only 21 putts and was tied for the lead until Damron and Verplank pulled away.

"I'm very pleased that I was able to hang in there and not really have my best stuff," Woods said. He leaves Monday evening to play the Deutsche Bank in Germany. *AP*

Stenson trounces field by 3

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England — Move over, Jesper Parnevik and Annika Sorenstam.

Henrik Stenson of Sweden, who said earlier in the week that the two more famous Swedish golfers get all the attention at home, may have earned the right to share the limelight Sunday after his wire-to-wire European Tour victory by three shots.

The baby-faced 25-year-old Tour rookie's 2-under-par 70 gave him the Benson and Hedges International title against a host of top European stars who never mastered the hard, fast course at The Belfry, where the Ryder Cup will be played in September.

"I got the job done. It is truly fantastic, especially as I was in the lead for so long," said Stenson, who shared the lead after the opening round and kept it all the way.

Stenson, who won the European Challenge Tour last year and won three tournaments in the process, became the sixth first-time winner on the European Tour this year and his success earned him 166,600 pounds ($ 236,472).

"It was really important and helpful to me to have won three times on the Challenge Tour," he said.

"Ryder Cup? Yes I'll be trying to make the team now."

Paul McGinley of Ireland, who shared the first-day lead with Stenson, birdied the last two holes to take a share of second place after a 70 for a 278 total. *AP*

Pistons eye new mentor

DETROIT —Detroit Pistons president Joe Dumars said he's ready to get down to the business of selecting a new coach.

Dumars said he's spent two weeks looking at prospective candidates _ and seriously sitting down with about 12 of the 25 that he said have shown interest.

"It's been a great, great two weeks for me. ... But now it's time to rule it down," Dumars said.

Dumars said he expected to start calling people this week to narrow down the candidates to replace George Irvine. Dumars fired Irvine last month after the Pistons finished the season 32-50, the ninth-worst record in the NBA. *AP*

Mauresmo trips Capriati for German Open crown

BERLIN —It's getting harder every day to say who's going to win a women's tennis tournament, much less the French Open starting in two weeks.

The German Open started as a showdown between Martina Hingis, Venus Williams and Jennifer Capriati, but it ended Sunday with France's Amelie Mauresmo joining the growing list of players fighting for the top.

Mauresmo beat No. 4 Jennifer Capriati 6-4, 2-6, 6-3 after ousting No. 1 Hingis to capture the $ 1.185 million German Open. That ran her record to a tour-best 27-2 this year.

Now that she's over the back problems that sidelined her much of last year, the Frenchwoman is eager to chase her first gland slam title when the French Open starts in two weeks.

"I'm really impatient, I'm really looking forward to the French Open," said Mauresmo, 21, who has four titles this year.

"Beating the players I'm beating, I'm very confident, but I'll probably learn something next week in Rome."

Venus Williams, ranked second, found that out _ being dominant one week may not mean anything the next in women's tennis these days.

The American devastated a weaker field at Hamburg the previous week, dropping just 12 games in four matches, then went out in the third round, 6-1, 6-4 this week to Belgian teen-ager Justine Henin.

The rising 18-year-old showed that was no fluke against Capriati in the semi-finals by playing the Australian Open champion dead even until she sprained an ankle in the third set and was forced to quit as she fought back tears.

"It's just so close at the top, it's a matter of who is on that day," said Capriati.

Mauresmo won her nearly two-hour contest when Capriati's forehand sailed long after the American fought off two match points.

She took control of the match with a break to gain a 2-1 lead in the final set, turning around a match in which Capriati had won 10 of the previous 13 games.

"That was unbelievably important to get ahead like that, to take the lead," said Mauresmo, who will pass Serena Williams with her latest title and move to No. 6. *AP*

Ferrero stuns Kuerten in final

ROME— Eighth-seeded Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain won the $2.95 million ATP Tennis Masters Series tournament here Sunday at the Foro Italico, beating Brazil's top seed Gustavo Kuerten 3-6, 6-1, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the final.

Ferrero thus won his fourth title of the year against Kuerten - the inaugural winner of the ATP Champions Race in the year 2000 - twice coming from a set down to prevail in the decider, sealing victory with an ace in an encounter that lasted three hours.

"This has been a very special week for me because it is my first victory in the Masters Series," said Ferrero after being presented with the trophy on the clay court.

"But 'Guga' (Kuerten) is still the number one and will be at least until the final (of the Masters Series) in Sydney."

Kuerten, who later this month defends his French Open title at Roland Garros, said: "I am very happy with my form but I have to give the credit to my opponent here today. He played very well."

The Brazilian, who on Sunday virtually ruled out appearing in this year's Wimbledon tournament in the latest salvo over a seeding controversy, said: "He made me run a lot. He managed to play a little bit better at the end. Today I had a couple of chances to maybe close out this match but it wasn't enough. He played well enough especially at the end and deserved to win."

FERRERO

Top seed Kuerten made an electric start, racing to a 5-1 lead and eventually taking the first set 6-3 in the blazing sunshine.

But the second set was a different story with Ferrero, seeded eight, taking advantage of an apparent lack of concentration by his opponent whose serve lost its accuracy.

Ferrero in contrast produced some superb tennis in the second set and one shot through his legs which forced Kuerten to net was applauded even by the Brazilian.

In the end Ferrero took that set 6-1 to the cheers of his backers in the crowd who were holding their own against a noisy Brazilian contingent, many clad in the country's famous yellow football shirts.

But the Brazilian, a victor here in 1999 and last year's runner-up to Sweden's Magnus Norman, recovered in the third set and once again his serve was causing problems for his opponent with 'Guga' winning most short rallies while Ferrero's subtler game generally prevailed on the longer ones. But a 6-2 scoreline told its own story. *AFP*

Hingis seeks Masters plum

ROME— Top seed Martina Hingis hopes to profit from the spate of withdrawals from the WTA Tennis Masters Series tournament beginning here Monday and regain a title she won back in 1998.

The Swiss star's path to a second Roman triumph has been smoothed by the withdrawal of several top contenders, notably the Williams sisters Venus and Serena and defending champion Monica Seles.

However, if she is to regain the title she first won three years ago Hingis knows she will have to beat Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo in the semi-finals - something she failed to do in Berlin on Saturday.

Mauresmo, seeded four in Rome, defeated Hingis 3-6, 6-0, 6-4 in the semi-final of the German Open and went on to defeat Jennifer Capriati in Sunday's final.

SEEDS

1. Martina Hingis (Swi), 2. Jennifer Capriati (USA), 3. Conchita Martinez (Spa), 4. Amelie Mauresmo (Fra), 5. Nathalie Tauziat (Fra), 6. Kim Clijster (Bel), 7. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spa), 8. Magdalena Maleeva (Bul), 9. Anke Huber (Ger), 10. Mary Pierce. *AFP*

RP AMATEURS AT ALABANG

Que starts defense of golf crown

WINNING three of his first four tournaments this year should be enough proof that Angel Que is now the country's best amateur.

But Que said a winning season would mean nothing unless the huge Philippine amateur golf championship trophy is not in his possession.

In what could be his final stint in the RP Amateurs due to a planned crack at the pro ranks next year, the 22-year-old Que leads one of the biggest fields teeing off today at Alabang.

Among 102 entries were DHL Open champion Juvic Pagunsan, national team veteran and last year's eliminations topnotcher Cookie La'O, 1999 winner Artemio Murakami and last year's losing finalist Jerome Delariarte.

"It's going to be tough defending the crown with so many good players around. I just have to give it my best shot," said Que, the individual champion in the last PAL Interclub and winner of the last two legs of the Titleist-Footjoy national amateur circuit.

The first two days will be stroke play, with the Top 16 advancing to the tournament proper on Thursday. After four days of match play, the finalists will dispute the crown via a 36-hole showdown on Sunday.

Francis Gaston, ex-pro Rolly Viray and the returning Emilio Tuason, prominent names during the 1970s, are also seeing action together with ex-pro Dave Hernandez, Solomon Gines, Boyet Saragosa and Jun Cedo, among others.

QUE

Barrichello F1's unhappy competitor

SPIELBERG, Austria —Rubens Barrichello clearly resented the Ferrari team orders to let his teammate Michael Schumacher pass him in the final straight of the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Barrichello's slowdown allowed Schumacher to take second place behind David Coulthard in a McLaren-Mercedes.

"I moved over for Michael because the team asked me to," the Brazilian driver said.

"I have little to say, I have to talk to the team, get some explanations," Barrichello said, speaking with a sullen expression in presence of Schumacher.

Barrichello added that he had been told to move over "many, many times" during the race.

Schumacher, three-time defending Formula One champion, took six points for his second place, while a third place would have brought him four.

A victory brings 10 points and Coulthard closed within four points of Schumacher in the drivers' championship. If Schumacher had stayed third, the gap would have been reduced to two points.

Schumacher has 42 points after three victories this season, Coulthard 38 after two. *AP*

WGAP receives Callaway backing

LADIES golf gets a huge boost with industry leader Callaway deciding to sponsor the second leg of the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines Circuit at the well-kept Riviera Golf and Country Club today. Tee-off time is 7 a.m.

WGAP members are expected to show up in full force to vie for the team and individual prizes put up by Callaway in the 18-hole tourney.

The field will be led by Sta. Elena, Navy and Riviera squads which won Classes A, B and C, respectively, during the season's successful kick-off leg at Navy.

"As we take pride in having the world's best lady player as one of our endorsers, we wish to sustain golf's growth in the country by supporting women's golf," said Glenn Baroma, general manager of Electrobus Consolidated Inc., the exclusive local distributor of Callaway.

Baroma is referring to Swede sensation Annika Sorenstam, whose Tiger-like dominance of the LPGA has made her the current toast of the golf world.

WGAP president Gina Tuason and her new board also hailed the Callaway support, saying that it comes at a time when participation has reached its highest level in years.

Participants will get the chance to try the ladies version of the hot-selling ERC II and VFT drivers at the Riviera driving range, according to Baroma.

Coulthard benefits from rivals' clash

SPIELBERG, Austria —With Michael Schumacher and Juan Pablo Montoya in a heated battle for the lead, all David Coulthard had to do was wait for his chance.

"It was not a question of if, but when and where they would tangle. We benefited from that," Coulthard said after winning Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix in his McLaren-Mercedes.

Schumacher, three-time defending champion, had trouble starting from the pole with his electronic launch control device and had to switch to manual on his Ferrari.

Montoya, the Colombian rookie on the Formula One circuit, took advantage to zip past Schumacher, who also saw younger brother Ralf overtake him in the second Williams-BMW at the start.

But Ralf had to drop out with brake problems in the 11th lap, leaving Michael tailgating Montoya for several laps.

Montoya held Schumacher off for five laps, but then the German got the nose of his Ferrari ahead as they entered a curve on lap 16.

The Colombian swerved to the outside, the two nearly touched and both had to brake to avoid a collision.

Both cars nearly came to a stop _ Montoya was forced to go through the gravel, Schumacher through the grass _ and five cars passed them, led by Barrichello in the second Ferrari. *AP*

'New' triathlon a huge success

A NEW bunch of triathletes, duathletes and aquathletes will soon be franchised to sport the Philippine tri-colors in the Asia Cup series and international events.

With this calling, the Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon 2001 series was successfully launched on April 21 at the Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City, with 125 entries—mostly first timers.

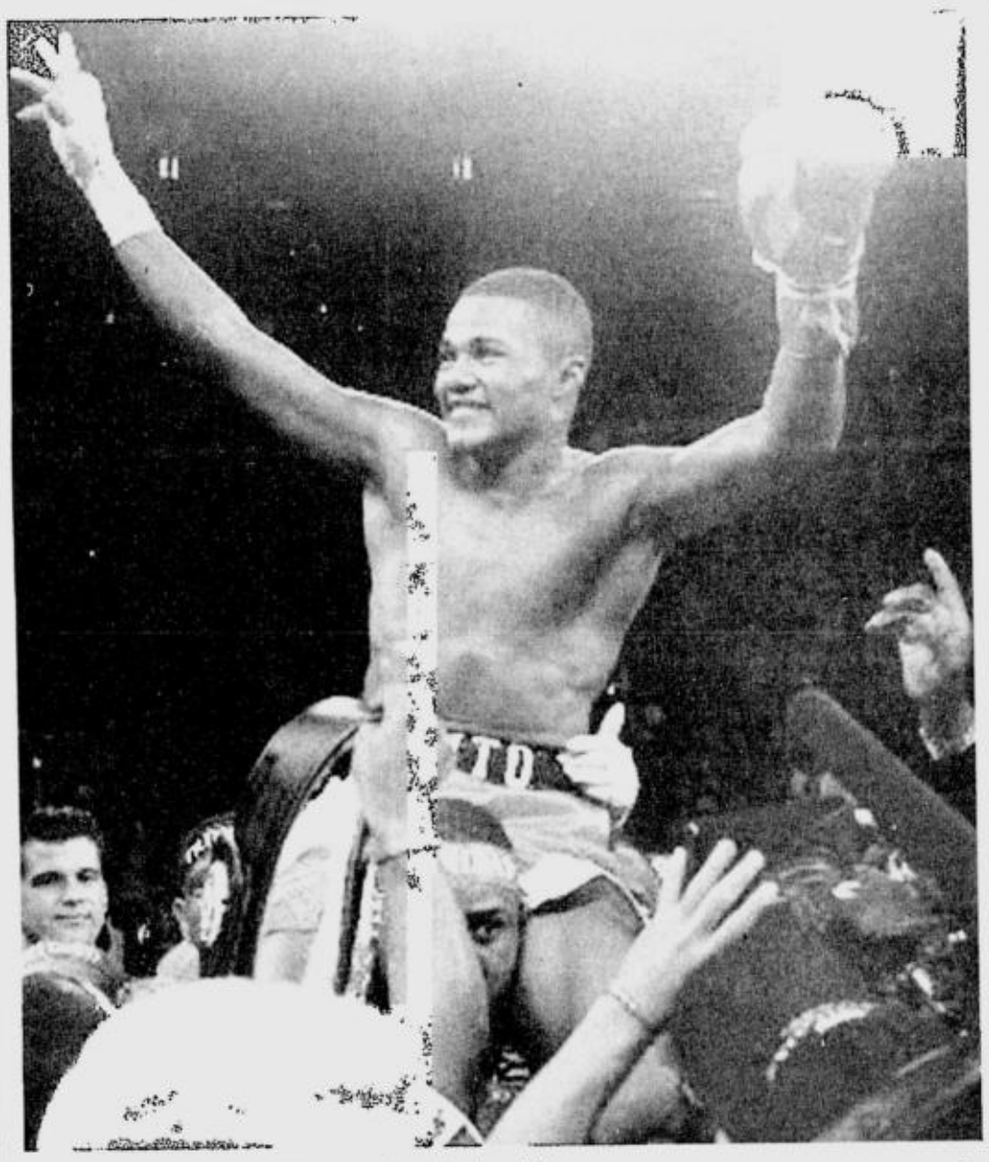
Organized by Firstwave Events Incorporated, the swim-bike-run series is set to stage more legs at Corinthian Gardens (June 9), UP Diliman (Sept. 9) and the finals at Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City (Dec. 2).

In full support of biathlon for the youth, Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) president Tom Carrasco officially sanctioned the Fit & Tri Youth Triathlon 2001 series and commended the organizers in their trailblazing efforts.

Participants aged 7 to 18 can join the events and get the chance to represent the country in the upcoming first Asian Youth Triathlon.

The series aims to develop not just biathlon but also perseverance, sportsmanship, courage, faith and humor among the youth.

Interested parties may call Firstwave Events Incorporated at (02) 750-0349 or 0917-5279190. The Firstwave team is composed of Lito Fugoso, Philippine Ironman Raul Cuevas, Chai De Leon, Pia Tan-Torres, Ricky Ledesma and Jenny Robles.


TRINIDAD: Fourth world championship in sight. AP

Rappelling May 19

THE FIRST Lipton Rappelling Open will be held in Subic on May 19.

The three-part event culminates with young participants vying for the "Best Rappelling" top awards.

Aside from rappelling and wall-climbing activities, there will also be several beach games wherein beach-hoppers and families can participate and even win special prizes, courtesy of Lipton. The awarding ceremonies will be held in the afternoon, capped by a beach party

Sponsored by Lipton Ice Tea, the event is part of the ongoing "Lipton Summer Beach Wave," which aims to promote non-traditional sports among the youth.

Hero's welcome for Tito

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—Thousands of Puerto Ricans welcomed WBA middleweight champion Felix "Tito" Trinidad on Sunday, a day after the former welterweight and junior middleweight champion defeated William Joppy to take the title.

Cars jammed roads near San Juan's airport as flag-waving fans gathered to welcome home the 28-year-old Trinidad, who knocked out Joppy in the fifth round at New York's Madison Square Garden.

"I dedicate my victory to the mothers of Puerto Rico," Trinidad said, arriving home on Mother's Day, accompanied by his parents.

Upon Trinidad's arrival at San Juan airport Sunday morning, Gov. Sila Calderon welcomed him along with Puerto Rico's other new champion, Miss Universe Denise Quinones. Quinones was crowed Miss Universe during Friday's pageant in suburban San Juan. *AP*

Trinidad to fight Hopkins Sept. 15

NEW YORK—Bernard Hopkins felt like he hit the lottery. William Joppy must have felt like he was hit by an iron bar.

As a result, Hopkins will face Felix "Tito" Trinidad in a fight for the undisputed middleweight championship on Sept. 15 at Madison Square Garden.

Joppy got more than enough of Trinidad early Sunday morning in the Garden. He was knocked down three times and stopped in the fifth round, losing the WBA middleweight title to the unbeaten Puerto Rican, who now has held world championships in three weight classes.

Hopkins had won the opening fight of promoter Don King's middleweight championship tournament when he retained the IBF crown and won the WBC title by outpointing Keith Holmes on April 14.

"Now there are two fighters left _ Felix Trinidad and Bernard Hopkins," Trinidad said. "It's going to be one hell of a fight."

A victory over the brawling Hopkins would add even more sparkle to the brilliant career of the 28-year-old Trinidad. He has been a champion for nearly eight years, wearing welterweight, junior middleweight and middleweight crowns.

Despite being a middleweight champion since 1994, Hopkins has been overshadowed by fighters such as Trinidad, Roy Jones Jr., Shane Mosley and Oscar De La Hoya.

"Is this the marquee name I need?" Hopkins asked rhetorically.

Joining Hopkins at ringside were heavyweight champions Hasim Rahman and John Ruiz, and former champion Evander Holyfield. Rahman is managed by Steve Nelson and Stan Hoffman, managers of Joppy.

King has scheduled a news conference Monday to announce a heavyweight championship doubleheader in August in Beijing. Ruiz will defend the WBA title in a third fight with Holyfield. Rahman, who won the WBC and IBF titles by knocking out Lennox Lewis in the fifth round April 22 in South Africa, will defend against Brian Nielsen of Denmark.

"Don King gave me the best deal," Rahman said when asked on the TVKO pay-per-view telecast of the Trinidad-Joppy fight why he signed Friday with the flamboyant promoter.

Cedric Kushner, who promoted Rahman's victory over Lewis, contends he still has a contract with the fighter. There is litigation about Lewis getting a rematch he claims was called for in his deal with Rahman.

Rahman, Ruiz and Holyfield saw a spectacular performance by Trinidad.

Fighters often can't carry their power or their ability to take a punch when they move up in weight. Trinidad, who held IBF and WBC welterweight (66.678 kilograms, 147 pounds) title and was the WBA and IBF junior middleweight (69.853 kilograms, 154 pounds) champion, promised he would be better in the 72.575-kilogram (160-pound) middleweight division.

Was he ever!

"I never thought he could hit like that," said Joppy (32-1-2), of Silver Spring, Maryland, who did not attend the post-fight news conference. "I never thought he would have that kind of power moving up from 154 to 160. I've never been hit like that before." *AP*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Conference Semifinals Game #5 at 9 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.) on Star Sports
TENNIS: Masters Series — Rome, Men's Final at 10 a.m. (r) and Hamburg, Early Round Coverage Day #1 at 8 p.m. on ESPN
ATP Tennis Show at 3:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN
GOLF: PGA Verizon Byron Nelson Classic, Second Round at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
HOCKEY: NHL Conference Finals, Game #2 at 7 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN
BASEBALL: MLB— Houston Astros vs Cincinnati Reds at 1 p.m. (r) on ESPN
SOCCER: Korean Football League - 2001 Knock-out Cup Semifinal #2 at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Spanish Football League at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

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REGISTRATION for the last summer series of Milo Checkmate clinic is now accepted at the Badminton Bldg., Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (RMSC), Vito Cruz, Manila and at the 2/F Center Mall, Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) in San Juan. The clinic will be held on May 18-28 at three venues, namely: RMSC—7:30-11:30 a.m.; 3/F Farmers Plaza, Araneta Center, Quezon City—10:30-2:30 p.m. and GSC—2-6 p.m.

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Summer Fun Run in Pasig

REGISTRATION is now going on for the Pasig City Running Club 5k/10K Summer Fun Run set for June 10 at the Philsports Complex (formerly ULTRA). Pasig City Vice Mayor Lorna Bernardo, Rep. Henry P. Lanot and actor/sportsman Ronnie Ricketts will be the guests of honor of the event which will start at 5:30 a.m.

₱60-M BID

PBL chair eyeing Purefoods franchise

BY DENNIS U. EROA

ANOTHER PBL team is making an attempt to enter the PBA by trying to buy the Purefoods franchise.

Dioceldo Sy, chair of the Philippine Basketball League and owner of the Blu Detergent Kings, told the INQUIRER yesterday that recent developments in the Philippine Basketball Association had made him think of joining the PBA.

"There's wisdom in looking for the right people regarding new ownership of the Purefoods franchise," said Sy, who is also a co-owner of Shark Energy Drink. GIV Beauty Soap is using the Blu name in the ongoing PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Blu became the second PBL team to aim for a PBA membership after Welcoat Paints during the last two years.

Two top PBL teams—Tanduay and Red Bull—successfully made the jump to the pro league some years back.

Sy, whose leadership is being credited for the PBL's success, said he would inquire about the Purefoods franchise fee after the elections.

"What I know is that there is a minimum price of P60 million. This means the amount will go higher considering that there are other bidders," Sy said.

Welcoat is reportedly willing to shell out P100M for a PBA franchise.

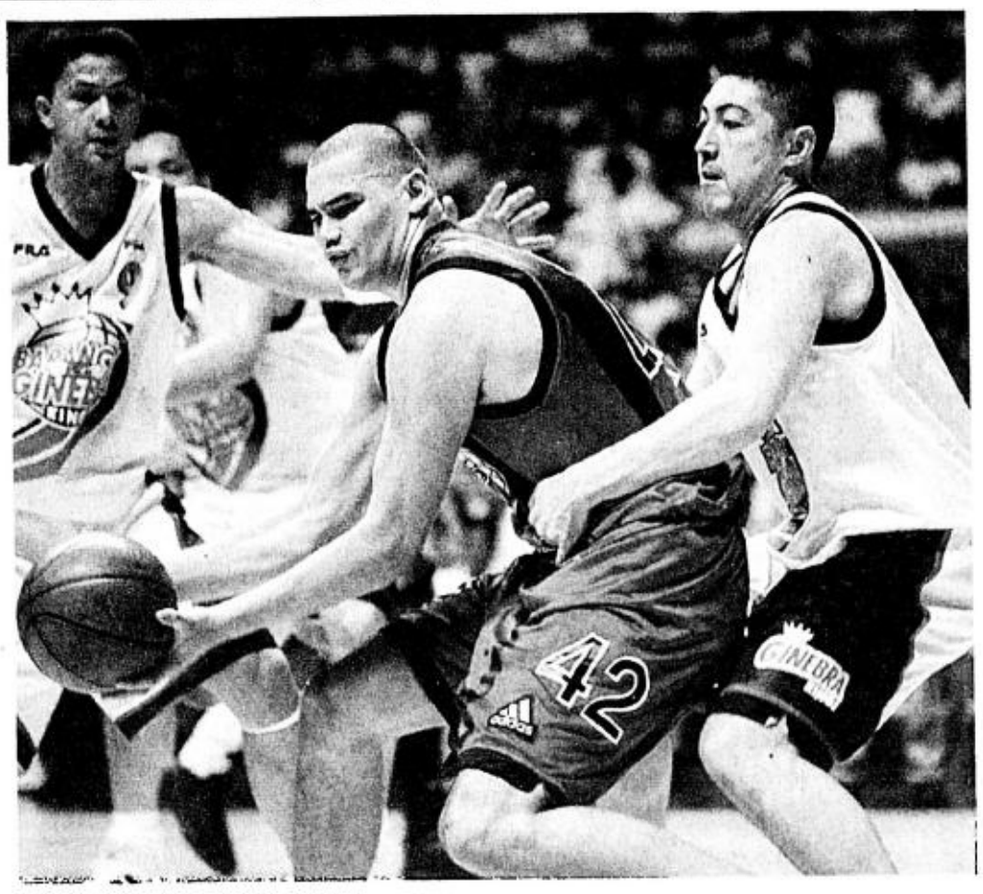
Insiders, however, told the INQUIRER that Welcoat would rather apply for a new franchise since Dutch Boy Paints, a competitor, is controlled by San Miguel Corporation chair Eduardo Cojuangco, who recently bought Purefoods for billions of pesos.

Cojuangco now owns both franchises of SMB and Ginebra. The PBA disallows one man to own three franchises.

"I'll have to consider also the benefits being enjoyed by a PBA team," said Sy. "There is no doubt the PBA remains the country's biggest crowd-drawer."

In an earlier interview, acting PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios said SMC could sell the Purefoods franchise to an outsider or to an existing member.

The PBA Board of Governors had already barred a trade of players between the sister teams. Purefoods has also lost its voting rights in future board meetings.



NOT ONLY TRAPPED
Elmer Lago (right) and Jun Limpot apply the double team trap on Danny Seigle (42) during Game 4 of the PBA All-Filipino finals on Sunday. Seigle was not only thoroughly trapped, he was also handcuffed as he only made 2-of-21 field goal attempts, allowing Ginebra to win, 80-64, to level the series at 2-2. VAL HANDUMON

Shark shoots 2 records vs GIV

▪ Lakers sweep Kings A22

Games Today	
(Makati Coliseum) PYBL	
9 a.m.—N. University vs U of Assumption	
10:45 p.m.—Whiz vs Spring Oil	
12:30 p.m.—Gringo Konica vs UP	
PBL	
3:30 p.m.—PharmaQuick vs Hapee	
5:30 p.m.—Giv vs Shark	

	W	L
Group A		
Shark	8	0
Ana	6	2
Giv	5	3
Welcoat	5	3
Group B		
PharmaQuick	5	3
Hapee	3	5
Ateneo-Pioneer	2	6
Montana	2	6
Osaka	0	8

COACH Leo Austria hopes to hit two birds with one stone as frontrunning Shark Energy Drink battles sister-team GIV Soap today at the start of the 2001 PBL Chairman's Cup quarterfinal round at the Makati Coliseum.

After joining the elite circle of champion coaches with his victory last conference, Austria eyes another career milestone as he guns for a new personal record nine straight wins.

A win will assure the Power Boosters of the first semifinals slot in the game set to start at 5:30 p.m.

"I'm not really aware of personal records. What matters is, the boys are doing their best in every game and they have maintained their intensity," said Austria.

Future

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LIKE journalists, some athletes also had to report for work yesterday. That's because, to a certain extent, their schedules are almost identical. To them, holidays almost always mean the same: working day. They work come hell or high water, to use a cliché.

Take Shark Energy Drink. Coach Leo Austria ordered his Power Boosters to do a two-hour workout yesterday at the Makati Coliseum.

No player of his had the temerity to complain, lest he incurred the ire of the man Mayo calls Coach Leo.

Can't blame Coach Leo. I will even commend him. While most coaches may readily call yesterday an off-day for players using the election exercise as an excuse, not Coach Leo. His work ethic, while really spartan to the letter, has always been that infectious. To him, it's always work first, pleasure second. To illustrate, Leo also had his boys reporting for duty last Black Saturday—when virtually all of basketballandia was still observing Lent. To get to the Makati Coliseum in time for practice that day, Leo had to drive almost 14 hours from Bicol to the big city.

No wonder Shark, already the proud winner of the PBL First Conference title only a while back, is 8-0 in the ongoing PBL Chairman's Cup.

Not to brag but, like Coach Leo, I am also a stickler on matters relating to the call of duty.

Take yesterday.

After casting my vote in my hometown of Mangatarem in Pangasinan, together with my daughter, Malaya, I rushed back to Manila in time for yesterday's closing of today's sports section. The rush was also precipitated by Sol Juvida's mission to vote in Quezon City. Leaving Mangatarem at about 11 a.m., we reached Sol's precinct at 2:15 p.m.

"Wow, it was organized confusion out there," she said after emerging from the polling center located not far from the church of Don Antonio Heights.

My day yesterday actually began with a big breakfast (rice and bangus) at Star Plaza Hotel in Dagupan City. The night before, it was a big meal (bangus, malaga, oysters, shrimps) at Matutina's, GMA's favorite restaurant in Dagupan. Was I glad to find that Matutina's has not upped its prices despite GMA's patronage of the place.

Oh, yes, the Mother's Day trip (Mother's Day lunch in Tarlac's Max's at Luisita Mall, Mother's Day dinner at Matutina's) last Sunday had Mayo, 4, and Dada, 2, in the entourage. Ricky Sadiwa, too, who alternated with me at the wheel; upon arrival in Manila, Ricky darted to Marikina to cast his vote.

But really, with Mayo and Dada in tow, said Sol Juvida, the trip was but a breeze. Comforted by the thought that, yes, the family's votes were for the two of them: Future.

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817-2194	372-6632	244-8913	842-4181	032-2340853

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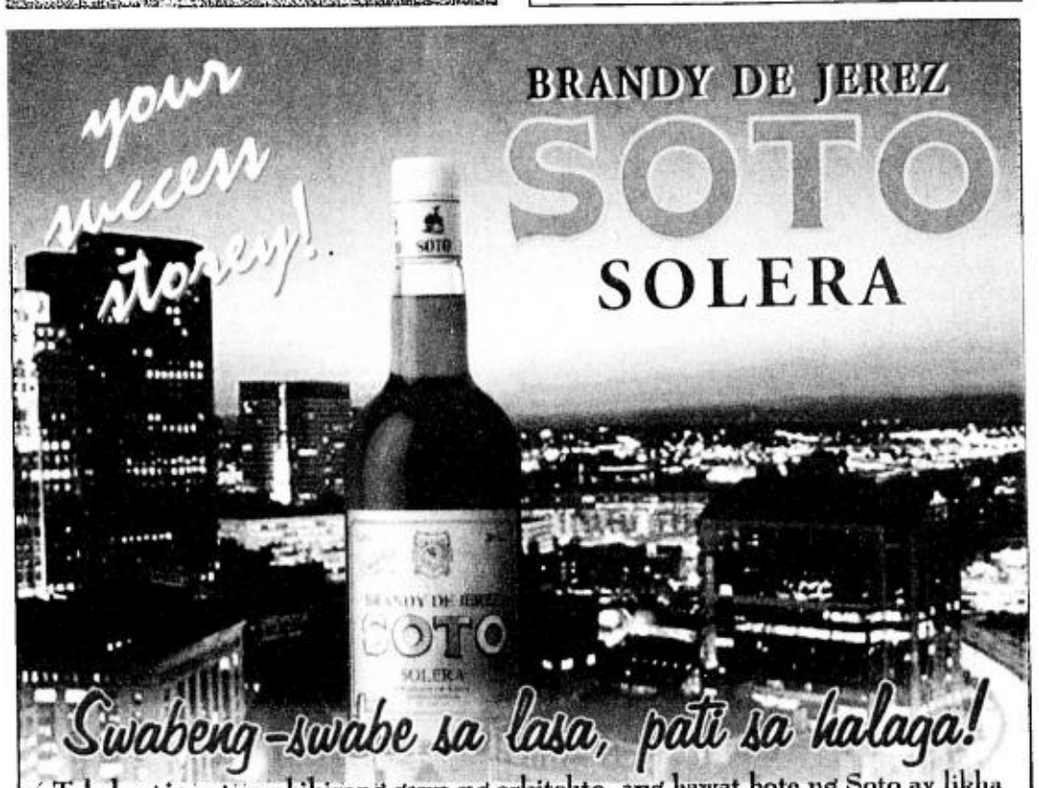

Tulad ng isang pambihirang gawa ng arkitekto, ang bawat bote ng Soto ay likha ng katangi-tanging abilidad, masusing trabaho at kailangan ng tamang panahon.

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■ Quiet but confusing in Manila
■ Old man nabbed for 'vote-buying' in Mandaluyong
A26

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ Armed men have no gun ban exemption
A28

TREASURER 'MISSING'

Chaos in Caloocan

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, MARK ISAIAH DAVID, LOUIE JON SANCHEZ, PAUL ERNEST LAZARO, MAE LORRAINNE RAFOLS, MARIE CARISA ORDINARIO, AND MARIONNE ACABADO

WOMAN on the spot Lourdes Jose, the Caloocan City treasurer, explains to MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. why the election materials were delayed. VALHANDUMON

CHAOS marked yesterday's elections in Caloocan where some 20 percent of registered voters in the city were not able to vote because of the unruly distribution of poll materials.

In contrast, poll officials said voting was generally peaceful in the rest of northern Manila—Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon.

According to Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo, voting was not held in 20 to 30 percent of the 2,757 precincts in Caloocan because election paraphernalia were either lacking or missing.

Benipayo summoned Caloocan City Treasurer Lourdes Jose to explain the delay in the distribution of election paraphernalia.

Benipayo's call fueled rumors in Caloocan that the city treasurer had been kidnapped or ordered arrested.

The rumor prompted Metro Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos and Dir.

CHAOS/ A28

Solon accused of threatening to kill woman

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

CALOOCAN City reelectionist Rep. Enrico Echiverri was accused of threatening to kill a woman voter yesterday after he allegedly saw her wearing a shirt with the name of his opponent, Vice Mayor Oscar Malapitan.

Precy Cruz, 47, said Echiverri was very drunk when he threatened to kill her and twisted her arm at the Bagong Barrio public market at about 6:30 a.m. yesterday.

But Echiverri only laughed off the allegations and said he was still sleeping in his house when the incident supposedly occurred. He said he woke up only at about 2 p.m.

Cruz, who identified herself as Malapitan's cook, said Echiverri alighted from a white car and started berating her.

She claimed the representative became furious when he saw her wearing a Malapitan shirt.

SOLON/ A28

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Armed 'supporters' of Rep. Gonzales rounded up in SJ

BY AGNES E. DONATO AND NICKSON RYAN MATIAS

SAN JUAN police on Sunday night rounded up 68 armed men allegedly hired by reelectionist Rep. Jose Mari Gonzales.

Chief Supt. George Aliño of the Eastern Police District (EPD) said the suspects claimed to be part of a civilian arm of the military brotherhood called "Guardians."

Aliño, however, stressed that the reports regarding Gonzales' involvement had yet to be confirmed. The Inquirer tried to reach the congressman for his comment but he was not available.

Police recovered from the suspects 19 short firearms including .45-caliber pistols, .38-caliber revolvers and 9mm pistols.

The suspects also yielded a fan knife and ID cards signed by a certain Army Major Godofredo Laluza.

ARMED 'SUPPORTERS'/ A28

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Quiet but confusing in Manila

BY JEROME ANING, JP ANDAQUIG, JEUSA RAFLORES, CARINA RONCESVALLES AND MYLA TORRES.

MANY Manila residents were not able to vote as confusion prevailed in the polling places, even if the elections yesterday ended in relative peace.

Former Interior Secretary Alfredo Lim was the first among the three major Manila mayoral candidates to cast their votes. He arrived about 7:30 a.m. at the Rosauro Almario Elementary School on Kagitingan Street in Tondo.

Mayor and reelectionist Lito Atienza and his family cast their vote about 8 a.m. at the Rafael Palma Elementary School on Zobel Roxas Street.

Former Rep. Amado Bagatsing and his wife voted about 10 a.m. at the Aurora Aragon-Quezon Elementary School on San Andres in Malate.

Missing names were attributed to errors and irregularities in the list of voters. Voters whose names were not in the precinct list but were found in the general list were allowed to cast their votes.

Local Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) units complained that some teachers who are members of the many boards of election inspectors in Pandacan, Ermita and Quiapo arrived late so that many polling precincts also opened late.

Francisco Austria, PPCRV poll watcher at the Felipe Calderon High School in Sta. Ana, complained that he had the name of his dead wife erased from the voters' list during the 1998 election, but her name was still on the list yesterday.

At the Zamora Elementary School in Pandacan, many precincts could not open on time because several poll watchers, employed by many parties, quit. Opposing parties had to wrangle for those who were left.

The Inquirer also spotted many poll watchers of the National Press Club, even if the NPC had already withdrawn from its "quick count" operation.

At the Ramon Magsaysay High School on España Street in Sampaloc, some 200 nuns and novices from the local Dominican nunnery at the University of Sto. Tomas, who claimed they were registered in Sampaloc, said they could not find their names.

"We have some people grumbling as to why the names of their long-deceased relatives were still on the list, while their names were not included," said Dr. Estella Liwanag, principal of the Geronimo Santiago Elementary School in San Miguel.

There were similar complaints at the Araullo High School in Ermita, Torres High School in Tondo, Ramon Avanceña High School in Quiapo, and P. Guevarra Elementary School in Sta. Cruz.

PPCRV poll watchers at the Geronimo Santiago and Ramon Avanceña said local school authorities should have had vehicles to take people

ATIENZA

who did not find their names to the Commission on Elections main office so that they could petition for their names to be included in the voters' list.

LIM

Geronimo Santiago was one of the several schools that registered a small turnout of voters. The school has 20 precincts covering the 100-percent Muslim populated Barangay 648.

Liwanag said some precincts registered as low as 25 percent in voter turnout. She said Manila's Muslims are generally more interested in barangay elections.

"It's more exciting here during barangay elections because the positions are bitterly and hotly contested," she told reporters. "During barangay elections, we had to call in Marines to escort our BEIs, who had to leave the school through the windows."

Liwanag said some voters from the Muslim area also complained about "touchy" and "grumpy" teachers who even threatened to have them removed.

"I just told them to forgive our teachers because many of them were already tired," she said.

Several members of the local Parish Pastoral Councils for Responsible Voting expressed frustration at the alleged "slowness, strictness, meticulousness or naiveté" of some of the teachers who were first-time BEI members.

Man shot dead during chase of snatcher

BY JP ANDAQUIG

A MAN was shot dead while a relative of his was injured when an unidentified man chased and shot them, claiming he saw one of them snatch a pedestrian's cell phone, in Sampaloc, Manila Friday afternoon.

Killed was Ireneo Lalic, married and a resident of 366 Valencia St., Sta. Mesa, Manila, police said. Investigators believed Ireneo was driving a jeepney which also carried his relatives Federico, 22, and Moley, also a driver.

Federico was shot in the right leg and is being treated at St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City, police said.

Case investigator SPO3 Ernesto Jose Jr. said that before the shooting, an Alfonso Cabadusa was eating at the Double A Carinderia on P. Noval Street in Sampaloc when a man suddenly snatched his Nokia 7110 cell phone at 1:30 p.m.

The man allegedly jumped into a parked red passenger jeepney (NVH-532) which sped toward España. Police said the jeepney was the one Ireneo was driving.

SPO3 Jose, quoting witnesses, said a man riding in a scooter saw the snatching. The man on the motorcycle pursued the jeepney and signaled it to stop.

But as the jeepney reached the corner of Espana and F. Cayco streets, shouts were fired, police said. The unidentified man also drew a gun and engaged the suspects in a gunfight.

Police said Federico and Moley jumped off the jeepney. Moley was able to escape.

Old man nabbed for 'vote-buying' in Mandaluyong

BY AGNES E. DONATO AND PAMELA S. SANTOS

A 66-YEAR-OLD man was arrested for allegedly buying the votes of senior citizens in Barangay Vergara in Mandaluyong City in favor of local opposition candidates.

Juan Magdaluyo, of Backside, Barangay Vergara, admitted that he had given his neighbor Salve Ibusag, 62, P300 in 100 peso bills and an ID card with the names "Bibot-Ipe-Angie," according to police.

The names refer to candidates Ernesto Domingo Jr. who is running for mayor, Phillip Salvador for vice mayor, and Angie Domingo-Buan for congressman. They are running against administration candidates led by incumbent Mayor Benhur Abalos Jr.

But mayoral aspirant Ernesto "Bibot" Domingo denied involvement in the vote buying incident and hit back at his opponent by accusing him of employing a "systematic harassment" against his camp.

In a sworn statement, Ibunag said that one of her neighbors had told her earlier to go to the house of Magdaluyo because he had something to give the senior citizens in their area.

She said she went to Magdaluyo's house to find out what was going on. When she got there, she said, Magdaluyo told her that she would receive "blessings" from him. She said he then gave her the money and the ID, which he asked her to sign.

But Domingo countered that Magdaluyo could be one of the leaders his father had hired to get poll watchers during the elections. He said the P300 Magdaluyo was supposed to be doling out could be for food allowance of the watchers.

Ibusag said she refused to accept the money "because I am for the other party," but Magdaluyo insisted.

She said she later narrated the incident to her daughter-in-law who reported it to Lamberto de la Cruz, chair of Barangay Vergara.

Police said Magdaluyo admitted during questioning by authorities that the money came from him.

Senior Insp. Efren Jugo, chief of the Mandaluyong Police criminal investigation unit, said Magdaluyo also claimed that he had already given the same amount to 25 other people aside from Ibusag.

Magdaluyo said Domingo's father, former Mayor Ernesto Domingo Sr., had given him the money to buy votes, according to Mandaluyong Comelec chair Ma. Anne Lacuesta.

He said Domingo Sr. gave him P22,200 to buy the votes of 74 senior citizens for P300 each. He said he also received P2,000 as payment for his service.

Magdaluyo is now facing charges of vote buying, or violation of Article 22, Section 261 of the Election Code and is detained at the Mandaluyong City Jail.

Insisting that he and his supporters had not hired anyone to buy votes, the younger Domingo also accused Abalos of using his influence over the local police and the city prosecutor to harass the opposition, in "a desperate move to maintain his hold on power."

But in another incident, a Domingo poll watcher was arrested for allegedly trying to bribe another poll watcher from the Abalos camp.

Poll watcher Rolando Salmo, 26, of Barangay Harapin ang Bukas in Mandaluyong City, however, denied the accusation and claimed the bribe was said in a joke.

He said that he and his friend and neighbor Premavera Bardon, 27, a poll watcher for Abalos' camp, were chatting about 8 a.m. at the Jose Rizal University where they were both assigned by their respective parties.

He said they were discussing their pay as poll watchers when he joked about giving her P2,500 if she would switch to Domingo's camp.

But someone apparently overheard the joke and reported it to the Abalos camp, Salmo said.

"I was so surprised when a man suddenly came over at about 12:30 p.m. and arrested me while I was on my way to the restroom," Salmo told the INQUIRER.

Black propaganda materials flood Quezon City

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

BLACK propaganda materials and thousands of sample ballots yesterday flooded Quezon City as competing candidates made last-ditch efforts to capture votes on election day.

Of the six persons the Central Police District arrested yesterday for election-related violations, five were apprehended for spreading black propaganda. The last arrested was a woman who was allegedly a flying voter in Novaliches.

Police arrested three teenage residents of Barangay San Roque, Quezon City, two of whom are brothers 13 to 16 years old, for allegedly distributing fraudulent sample ballots against congressional candidate Maite Defensor, said PO3 Gil Nino of the Project 4 police station.

In Barangay Sacred Heart, pedicab drivers Ramon P. Pabustan, 32; and Eduardo G. Gabon, 30; were arrested for distributing leaflets allegedly containing libelous accusations against city council candidates, said Chief Insp. Edgardo Pamittan of the Kamuning police station.

Maria P. Perez, 24, of Block 56 Regalado Avenue, Barangay Fairview, was caught by a vigilant teacher when Perez reportedly tried to vote a second time in Novaliches.

Police caught the three youngsters handing out sample ballots which erroneously cited Defensor as a city council candidate, PO3 Nino said.

On the space for congressman, the sample ballots had the name of Defensor's opponent, Mike Planas.

"These boys were only trying to earn some money," Nino said. "Unfortunately for them, they were caught even before their handlers paid them."

A certain "Negro" allegedly told the minors to distribute the sample ballots in exchange for P100 each.

Nino said Quezon City election officials would decide what charges would be filed against the three boys.

He added police also confiscated leaflets alleging that Defensor had been disqualified because she was a foreigner.

Quezon City mayoral candidate Feliciano Belmonte also did not escape the mudslinging.

Police from the Kamuning station showed the Inquirer fake P500 bills with Belmonte's smiling face superimposed on that of national hero Ninoy Aquino.

Written on the bills were: "*Limang daang piso ka lang* (You're just worth P500)," "*Ang salaping ito ay bayad para sa boto* (This bill is for the payment of votes)," and "In pay we trust."

On the other side of the bills were written "*Iba na ang mukhang pera, pabibili ka ba?*" (Will you let yourself be bought?)

Kamuning policemen arrested Pabustan and Gabon for distributing leaflets against Quezon City council candidates, said Pamittan, Kamuning police investigation and intelligence chief.

Curiously, the eight targets of the leaflets belonged to both the opposition and the administration parties, Pamittan added.

One candidate was accused of pedophilia, another of knowing nothing except "acting," another of having a Porsche and a BMW while claiming to be a barber's son, and still another for providing only "free circumcision, haircuts, and fogging" during his previous term as councilor.

Coincidentally, one of the maligned city council candidates chanced upon the two suspects on Tomas Morato Avenue and had them arrested, said Pamittan.

Two other candidates are thinking of filing libel charges against them, Pamittan added.

Flying voters in the South

BY ALCUIN PAPA

FLYING voters were yesterday reported in Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Pasay City.

Parañaque police arrested an alleged flying voter whom they identified as John Ledesma, 27, of San Juan Apartments, San Juan Street corner F.B. Harrison, Pasay City.

Ledesma was caught by Marcelo Galarosa, of 2 Southland St., Evacom, San Dionisio, Parañaque.

Galarosa said he went to cast his vote at 8:15 a.m. at the Parañaque city hall on Dr. A. Santos in San Antonio.

He said he was surprised to find out that someone had already voted under his name. Poll officials pointed to Ledesma, who was just leaving, saying he was the one who voted as "Galarosa."

Ledesma was apprehended by Hermogenes Caubang, a member of the board of canvassers in precinct 545-A.

Ledesma refused to answer any questions from reporters. He is now detained at the Parañaque police jail and is facing charges of violation of the Omnibus Election Code, according to the Parañaque chief of police, Supt. Ronald Estilles.

Another alleged flying voter was caught in Parañaque's Baclaran Elementary School.

At the Parañaque Municipal High School, a Patricio Asoy, said to be a supporter of reelectioniset Mayor Joey Marquez, ordered poll watchers of Marquez's rivals to leave the polling places.

In Muntinlupa, police detained Jane Aranas, of Cupang in the same city, for being an alleged flying voter, at the Cupang Elementary School. Election officials said Aranas voted using the name of Corazon Galagaran.

Disenfranchisement of voters was also reported in some parts of Las Piñas City and Pasay City.

In Pasay City, police picked up two voters on suspicion they were flying voters.

One voter from the Iglesia ni Cristo in Pasay City, Felix Calub, complained to media people that his name was not on the voter's list and he was not allowed to vote.

Also in Pasay City, about 60 people were not allowed to vote in an elementary school because their names were also not on the list.

Some voters complained that teachers did not mark voters' fingers with the indelible ink. In the confusion, one teacher asked one voter to be the one to put the indelible ink on the fingers of other voters.

The Inquirer saw old ballot boxes being stored inside the city halls of Pasay and Muntinlupa.

City officials claimed that the ballot boxes would be used to transport election returns.

Security in 10 polling precincts in Pasay City was beefed up by 36 members of the Philippine Air Force. Pasay has been considered by the Commission on Elections as a hot spot.

Slain man floats in bay

THE BODY of a man whose throat had been slit was found floating in Manila Bay off Tondo, Manila before dawn yesterday.

SPO4 Raul Oliver Olavario of the Western Police District's homicide section said the victim was between 30 and 35 years old, 5-foot-3 to 5-foot-4, wearing black denim pants, and was shirtless and barefooted.

Rodolfo Cea, chair of Barangay 105 in Magsaysay Village, Tondo, reported that around 5:30 a.m., a woman saw the body floating near the seawall just off the Happyland resettlement site in Tondo.

Carina Roncesvalles, Jeusa Raflores

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, May 15, 2001
5th Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 14:19-28**
Gospel: **Jn 14:27-31**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace be with you; I give you my peace. Not as the world gives peace do I give it to you. Do not be troubled; do not be afraid. You heard me say: 'I am going away, but I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

I have told you this now before it takes place, so that when it does happen you may believe. It is very little what I may still tell you, for the ruler of this world is at hand, although there is nothing in me that he can claim. But see, the world must know that I love the Father and that I do what the Father has taught me to do. Come now, let us go."

Commentary:

"Shalom! Peace!" is the usual Hebrew greeting even up to contemporary times. It is one of the gifts of the messianic times, that is a fruit of integrity. In fact the word shalom literally means "whole." If peace is illusive, it is when integrity is missing in all our relationships: with God, with others, with creation and with our very own selves. This is the reason why our globalized world suffers from lack of peace. The terms of peace are not integral but are fragmented and catering mainly those who have the power, the money, prestige, and technological education.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS)—Indivisibility of the obligation—An obligation is indivisible when it cannot be validly performed in parts, whatever may be the nature of the thing, which is the object thereof. The indivisibility refers to the prestation and not to the object thereof. In the present case, the deed of sale supposedly conveyed the 6 lots. The obligation is clearly indivisible because the performance of the contract cannot be done in parts, otherwise the value of what is transferred is diminished. Petitioners are therefore mistaken in basing the indivisibility of a contract on the number of obligors. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, Nazareno v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 138842, October 18, 2000]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Confusion result of a divided Comelec

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

A HEADLINE on the INQUIRER's front page last Sunday shouted, "Comelec all set for elections."

Yesterday, election day, showed that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) was all but prepared.

Ballot boxes and ballots were missing in many precincts in Metro Manila where the poll body's offices are located. Some voters could not vote because their names were not listed, even if they had voted in the last elections.

Adding to the confusion was that some teachers were reportedly unaware of their role in the polling precincts. This showed they were not given seminars by the Comelec weeks or months before yesterday's balloting.

If utter confusion and irregularities could happen right in the national capital region, site of the Comelec headquarters, imagine what was happening in remote towns and villages in the country.

***

The poll body had three years to prepare for yesterday's balloting.

But how come problems like the ones encountered in previous elections recurred in yesterday's elections?

The answer is simple: The Commission on Elections, the agency that is supposed to make the elections orderly, is itself in disarray. The election commissioners don't speak with one voice because they are quarreling among themselves.

Only in the Philippines!

***

The Macapagal-Arroyo administration would not admit it, but there are speculations that deposed President Erap and his son Jinggoy will be staying at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center for a long time.

The father-and-son detainees were transferred to the hospital from Camp Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa, Laguna, after they allegedly complained of illness. Erap is reportedly had fever and chills, a result of acute bronchitis. Jinggoy, who mimics his father in every way, is allegedly suffering from "pains in the upper right quadrant of his chest." The suspicion, not expressed by doctors but by Presidential Spokesman Rigoberto Tiglao," was that Jinggoy might be having a liver ailment.

The transfer came days after President GMA had secret talks with Erano "Ka Erdie" Manalo, head of the politically powerful Iglesia ni Cristo. The speculations are that Manalo asked for the transfer.

The INC, whose members composed the bulk of the "poor people power" on May 1, possibly suggested to the Arroyo government the transfer to the VMMC to "save face."

***

In return, the powerful religious sect possibly pledged to vote for majority of the administration candidates running for the Senate.

INC members, estimated at two million strong, vote as one for candidates chosen by the church leadership.

Most of the candidates the religious sect supports almost always win. Many political analysts say the INC only supports candidates who are sure winners.

***

Mike Velarde, leader of the Catholic charismatic group El Shaddai, reportedly took a "hands-off" policy in yesterday's elections. He didn't endorse any national candidate to his flock.

In the 1998 presidential elections, Velarde asked his flock to vote for Erap, who made him spiritual adviser after he was elected president.

Velarde's hands-off stance was meant to send clear signals to the Arroyo administration that he was already distancing himself from the deposed president.

The controversial religious leader had wangled a deal with the Estrada administration which allegedly defrauded the government of hundreds of millions of pesos. Velarde's corporation had allegedly grossly overpriced a piece of real estate he sold to the government.

***

Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, who is seeking election on her merits after she became governor following the appointment of Joey Lina to the Arroyo Cabinet, has been disqualified by the Commission on Elections from running.

The poll body said she allegedly used public funds to promote her candidacy.

With Lazaro out, Lina's elder brother, Bert Lina, ran unopposed.

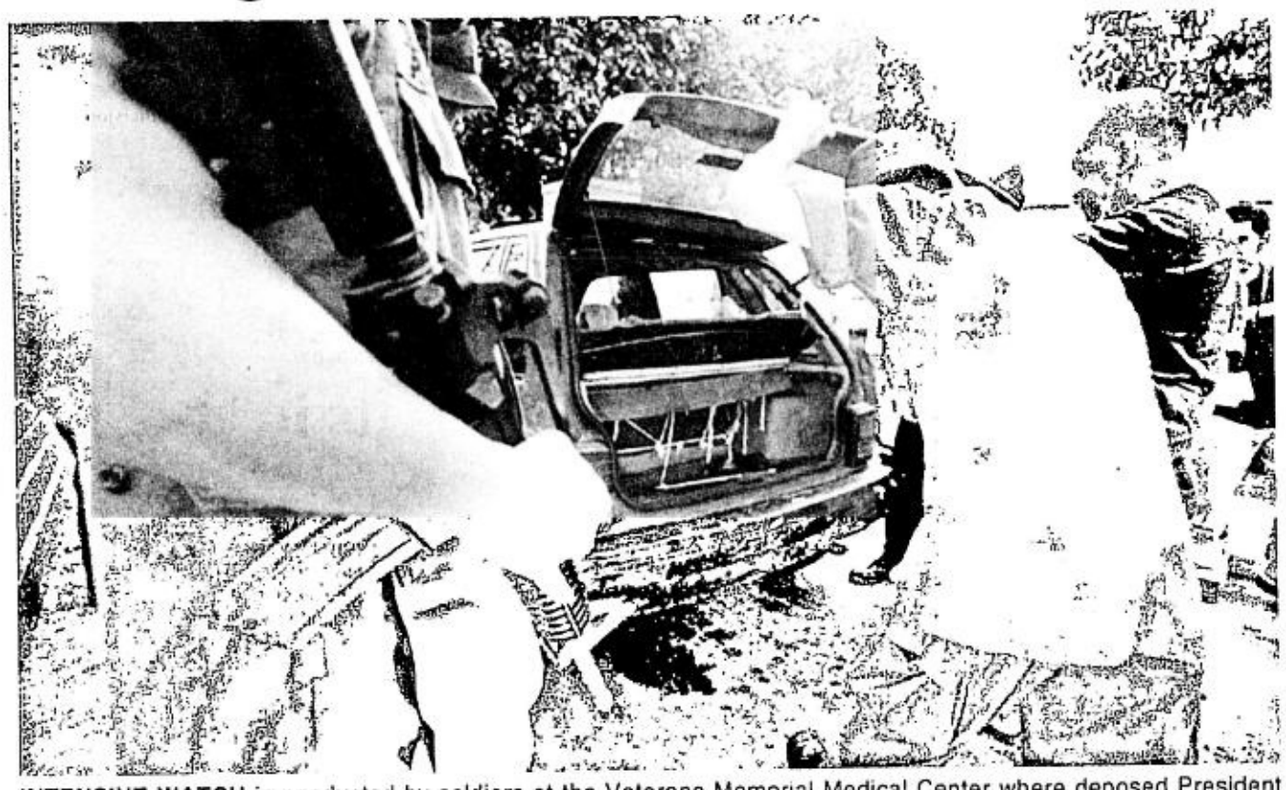
***

I had a talk with Interior Secretary Joey Lina recently and he told me he didn't have any choice but force his brother to run "for the sake of Laguna."

Bert Lina is a self-made multimillionaire and reportedly wants to preserve the good name of the family.

CHAOS COUNTRY is the Caloocan City North School, where poll officials and teachers had to wait long hours for election materials and rumors of kidnapping and arrests flew around. DENNIS SABANGAN

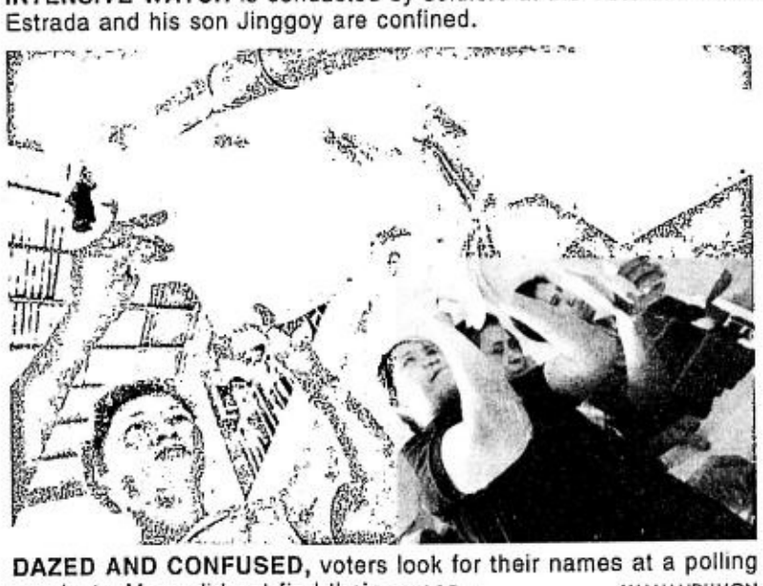
Day of disorder



INTENSIVE WATCH is conducted by soldiers at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where deposed President Estrada and his son Jinggoy are confined. DENNIS SABANGAN

NO PICNIC, just lunch break, as teachers eat in a van, using ballot boxes as dining tables. DENNIS SABANGAN

VERIFY, VERIFY. Voters search list for their names at the Pedro Cruz Elementary School. VAL HANDUMON



DAZED AND CONFUSED, voters look for their names at a polling precinct. Many did not find their names. VAL HANDUMON

AMEN. Nuns cast their votes at the Pinaglaban Elementary School in San Juan. VAL HANDUMON

JOAN BONDOC

DENNIS SABANGAN

'DIRTY' EXERCISE is nearly over in a polling precinct in Quezon City, where the ground is thick with discarded sample ballots.

YOUNG AND OLD, they came to join the political exercise, the bored baby with her mother in Quezon City, and the old man with his gnarled fingers in Lubao, Pampanga.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Armed men have no gun ban exemption

By Philip C. Tubeza

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna Mayor Francisco Lapis is facing investigation after his lawyer failed to produce documents showing that the guns confiscated from three of his supporters at the Veteran's Memorial Medical Canter on Saturday were exempted from the election gun ban.

Chief Insp. Anthony Rodolfo, Central Police District's Investigation unit chief, said Lapis' lawyer, who was unidentified, showed only the gun licenses and permits to carry and no exemption order from the Commission on Elections.

"The lawyer himself said he did not know if the guns had gun ban exemption permits," Rodolfo said.

Police on Saturday arrested Lapis supporters Cesar L. Moldez, 41; Antonio T. Avelino, 31; and Hugo L. Ramos, 76; all residents of Los Baños, when they tried to get in through Gate I of the hospital where former President Estrada and his son Jinggoy were detained. The three men were on board a Toyota Revo with government Plate No. SFN-577.

A .45 pistol with six live rounds and two magazines, a snub-nosed .38 revolver with five rounds contained in a black belt bag, two Motorola radios and a nine-inch fan knife were found in the glove compartment of the vehicle.

Police said the suspects could not present the proper documents showing ownership of the guns or that they are exempted from the election gun ban.

The three claimed they were just going to fetch Lapis from the hospital and did not know there were guns and a knife in the vehicle. They also denied they were bodyguards of Lapis. They said they were supporters of the mayor.

But police could not confirm until yesterday if Lapis was really at the hospital at the time the three men were supposed to fetch him.

Rodolfo said only Lapis' lawyer went to their office, but added that the fiscal might summon the mayor.

The three suspects were charged Sunday with illegal possession of firearms and violation of the election gun ban at the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Rodolfo said the city prosecutor has ordered a preliminary investigation of the case.

3 men caught in car sex, say police

PASAY City policemen said they caught three men allegedly engaging in sexual acts inside a car at the PICC Complex early yesterday.

But the three men were released after a relative of one of them filed counter-charges against the policemen.

PO1 Domerlines Sayson, PO1 Renato Cruz and PO1 Angio of the Pasay City police said they arrested Neil Juan, 27, jobless, of Talon, Las Piñas; medicap representative Randy Mandawag, 22, of Lardizabal Street; and Allan Sasot, 23, of M.H. de los Santos, both in Sampaloc, Manila.

Police said the three men were inside a dark green Mazda car (WAY-240) when caught around 3 a.m. during a routine patrol.

Mandawag and Sasot were allegedly fondling Juan's private parts when they were spotted, police said.

The policemen said they arrested the three men for grave scandal and indecent sexual acts.

However, a few hours after the arrest, Rose Sasot, a relative of suspect Allan Sasot, lodged a countercharge against the three arresting officers for abuse of authority, grave threat, and conduct unbecoming.

Pasay police later released the three suspects.

As of press time, the three officers could not be reached for comment. *Alcuin Papa, Margette Teodosio and Allison Lopez*

Musical in Bulacan

THE ST. Bartholomew Quasi-Parish of Tugatog, Meycauayan, Bulacan will present the Levites (The Singing Priests) in "Pescadores," a musical, on Friday, May 18, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's College Gym in Meycauayan.

The proceeds will fund a project to develop the church's lot.

Radio program tries to stub out smoking

AT ONE o'clock every afternoon, the upbeat music of the "Yosi Kadiri" theme song can be heard over DzRJ-AM 810 kHz. The song starts with a hacking cough, and then the anti-tobacco tirade begins: *"Ngipin naninilaw, mata'y namumula, at amoy bulok pa ang hininga, ang kutis niya'y kulay abo, puwede ba please lang, layuan mo ako ..."* (Discolored teeth, bloodshot eyes, bad breath, ashen complexion, please stay away from me.)

You are now in the "Yosi Kadiri sa RJ" zone and tobacco company executives and their industry allies are well advised to duck and run for cover. The man behind the mike goes ballistic and launches scathing attacks on smoking.

The man is Gerry Cornejo, a former tobacco executive and tobacco defender who turned into one of the country's most virulent anti-tobacco activists. He graduated with a business degree from De La Salle University and was a former law student at the Ateneo de Manila University.

According to Cornejo, he resigned as corporate affairs director of a multinational tobacco company, considered to be one of the world's largest cigarette manufacturers, when he saw all the lies and immorality connected with the tobacco industry. The remuneration was outstanding but the work involved was too disgusting and reeking of greed and malice, he says.

In his radio program, he recently flailed away viciously at celebrity tobacco endorsers who were running for public office and asked his listeners not to vote for TV and movie star Richard Gomez, a congressional party-list candidate, and popular action star Rudy Fernandez, a mayoral candidate of Quezon City.

Within a few minutes, the telephone lines were teeming with callers who wanted to air their support for Cornejo and his call to junk tobacco-endorsing political candidates.

A few minutes later, he shifted his verbal attack to another front. This time he called out the name of a shopping mall building administrator and angrily pointed out the various violations of the anti-smoking law in the mall. He ended up threatening to sic the police on the violators if the mall managers failed to heed his call to observe the anti-smoking law in their establishments.

Friends, relatives and even his listeners are amazed at the intensity of his anti-tobacco campaign, which he broadcasts two hours every day, six days a week. Even the World Health Organization (WHO) has taken notice and has sent congratulatory small messages to Cornejo citing the fact that it is the only one of its kind in the world.

Cornejo cites the message sent by Dr. Judith Mackay, chair of the World Health Organization Policy, Strategy Advisory Committee for Tobacco Free Initiative and director of the Asian Consultancy on Tobacco Control, who said, "Your daily anti-tobacco radio program is unique in Asia, and in the world. This is a great first for the Philippines."

The anti-tobacco advocacy of "YK sa RJ" is focused on three areas—smoke-free public vehicles, shopping malls and school campuses.

According to Cornejo, the first step in his overall strategy is to inform the public about the health hazards of passive smoking or second-hand smoke, and also about the laws and ordinances which prohibit smoking in those places.

After the public is informed and sensitized to anti-tobacco issues, the second step is to encourage people empowerment and law enforcement. This means that the non-smoking public will be urged to act and participate directly to curb anti-smoking violations. The degree of participation will vary-- from directly confronting the smoking-ban violators to reporting the violations to the proper authorities, like the Philippine National Police and the Metro Manila Development Authority.

The last option for persistent violators would be the legal option.

The daily two-hour program is interactive. Listeners who want to ask questions or give their comments live on air can call four telephone lines. Aside from telephone calls, listeners can also fax, e-mail or send letters by postal mail.

Cornejo says his radio program will campaign for issues which will hurt tobacco companies the most. First, a campaign to increase the tobacco excise tax. Second, a campaign to lobby for more stringent anti-tobacco legislation. And third, a campaign for broader and stricter bans and restrictions on tobacco advertising and smoking.

Along with the other anti-tobacco groups, "Yosi Kadiri sa RJ" is sponsoring a tobacco-related contest to create awareness among its listeners for the World No Tobacco Day celebration on May 31. The contest is called "May 31 Prizes sa May 31."

Callers are invited to phone in their answers to the trivia question: If one cigarette stick is 8.5 cm long, how long would be 75 billion sticks?" (This is said to be the actual number of sticks produced annually in the Philippines.)

Raffle winners will be picked and announced on May 31 World No Tobacco Day.

'YOSI KADIRI' host Cornejo on the air.

CLEAN CAMPUS DENNIS SABANGAN

At least on weekends, cars and other motorized vehicles are not allowed in this portion of the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, leaving the air free of smog and other poisons and allowing children and adults free access to clean, peaceful air.

Chaos in Caloocan

(From page A25)

Edgardo Aglipay, operations chief of the Philippine National Police, to go to Caloocan and investigate the incident before noon yesterday.

Caloocan poll precincts closed at 3 p.m. yesterday and election officers reported about 104,000 out of the 522,088 registered voters were not able to vote, according to reelectionist Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo.

Comelec officials surveyed affected precincts and found there were no grounds to declare a failure in elections in Caloocan.

"Tuloy ang bilangan (the counting will go on)," said one poll official.

But the Comelec yesterday issued a circular declaring the holding of a special vote from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m. today in precincts where voting had been delayed yesterday.

City treasurer Jose arrived at Benipayo's office around 1:30 p.m. with a blazer draped over her head.

She told Benipayo that, in their enthusiasm over the elections, over 8,000 teachers flocked to her office as early as 4 a.m., to collect the election materials.

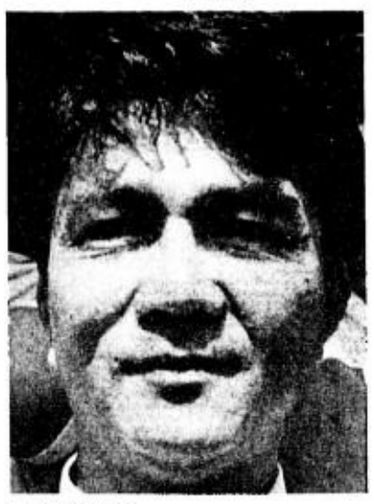
As city treasurer, Jose had in her safekeeping the election paraphernalia and ballot boxes to be released to the teachers.

Jose said the presence of thousands of teachers prompted the city election officer to open the treasurer's office.

"When that happened, the teachers rushed in to get what they thought were supposed to be their allocated election materials and ballot boxes," said Benipayo. "The problem is, in the confusion, some got the wrong allocation."

Several teachers were also injured in the stampede, said election officer Rodolfo Claveria.

Jose, who was present when the teachers stormed her office, admitted she panicked and fled her office because she feared the mob.



MALONZO

ASISTIO

When she returned, Jose said she found the election materials in disarray with most of the ballot boxes open.

But teachers who had been waiting for distribution as early as 3 a.m. blamed the city treasurer for the delay.

Gloria Medina of the M.B. Asistio Sr. High School accused the treasurer's office of inefficiency in the distribution of election materials.

Marilyn Gonzales of Sampalukan Elementary School said ballot boxes did not contain the rest of the materials, including official Comelec padlocks and ballpens.

Because of this, teachers had to go to different offices to get the necessary materials.

Jose explained that her staff did not have sufficient time to prepare the materials since Caloocan election officer Calixtro Ramos' men allegedly transferred the materials to her office "piecemeal."

"We have a system but the teachers did not follow the procedures," Jose said.

Election duty officer Claveria also blamed the teachers for being "unruly" when they stormed Jose's office.

But mayoral candidate Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio said Malonzo should not pass the blame on the teachers, who were "only doing their jobs."

While Benipayo appeared to be satisfied with Jose's explanation, he nevertheless said the Comelec would not hesitate to file administrative and criminal charges against her if it would be proven that she lied and deliberately abandoned her office to delay the elections.

Dr. Elizabeth Manalo, Caloocan public schools' district supervisor, said around 80 percent of the city's 2,827 polling precincts had yet to begin election as of 9:30 a.m.

Only 25 of the 42 precincts in Bagong Silang Main Elementary School were able to conduct elections as of 10 a.m.

Asistio accused Malonzo of trying to cheat him by allegedly orchestrating the delay.

Malonzo claimed Asistio sent at least 50 people to sow confusion in the distribution of election materials at the Caloocan Trade Center around 6 a.m.

Five flying voters were arrested in key polling areas in the city yesterday.

Residents caught Conrado Morera, 33, and Luz Mendoza, 58, both residents of 318 P. Nuncio Street, Sampaloc, Manila at the Caloocan Central Elementary School at about 9 a.m.

The suspects, who identified themselves as supporters of Malonzo, were about to cast their votes when they were spotted by barangay councilmen Ricardo Bernardo and Danilo Manansala.

The councilmen said Morera and Mendoza were about to use the names of Caloocan residents to vote.

Morera said he and his wife decided to vote in Caloocan since "it was much nearer than the polling precincts in Manila."

In Maypajo, one Dandy Galapo, 31, of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, and two companions were reportedly arrested for trying to vote twice.

The suspects reportedly confessed that one Medy Labilla offered to pay them P700 in exchange for the vote, said Allan Encarnacion, spokesperson of Asistio.

In Valenzuela, Malabon, and Navotas, voters "peacefully" went to polling precincts, according to the National Movement for Free Elections and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

In Valenzuela, elections were so peaceful some policemen were even caught watching movies at a video rental store.

In Navotas, Namfrel officials discovered at least 30 people registered in two different polling precincts.

Lawyer Archimedes Marchez, head of the Navotas Namfrel, said the "double registrants" showed possible cases of flying voters.

In Malabon, reelectionist Rep. Ricky Sandoval said several of his watchers in Maysilo were offered money to leave the polling precincts.

He said his lawyers were preparing legal actions against those behind the alleged bribery.

Armed 'supporters' of Rep. Gonzales ...

From page A25)

Investigation showed that a San Juan police official was standing outside the police station around 8:30 p.m. on Sunday when he spotted eight men in fatigue uniforms loitering around the local post office, which was just meters away from the police headquarters.

Supt. Emerson Lorenzo, San Juan deputy police chief, said he got suspicious as he knew that the Philippine National Police had not made any agreement with the Army that the soldiers would conduct operations during the elections.

Lorenzo then sent a police team to accost the suspected men. When questioned by the police, the suspects reportedly pointed their 10 other companions who were waiting for them inside an FX taxi parked nearby.

Further interrogation also led police to Romoagan Building on Cordillera Street in Barangay Highway Hills in Mandaluyong City at 2 a.m. There, police arrested 50 more men.

One of the arrested men, Redentor Abrigo, 41, of sta. Mesa, Manila, told police that his group was led by a certain Sergeant Jess Vera.

Abrigo said he met Vera in a public bus. He said Vera invited him to be part of the Civil Military operations and join the "Magic Group," a military organization based in Fort Bonifacio, Makati.

Abrigo said he became an official member of the Magic Group in October 2000, after undergoing training and attending a seminar in Binangonan, Rizal.

Insp. Albert Tapulao said Abrigo and his companions apparently had been duped.

"Vera made his recruits pay P200 for their ID, P250 for the CMO shirt and P500 for the memorandum receipt, all of which were supposed to be for free," Tapulao said.

The men said Vera did not give them any contact numbers except for his mobile phone.

Police also confiscated from the suspects allegedly bogus mission orders and memorandum receipts as well as an alleged voice tape of Gonzales promising them free meals and commendation in return for their services.

The suspects are now detained at the San Juan police station. They will be charged with usurpation of authority, falsification of public documents and illegal possession of firearms.

Solon accused ...

(From page A25)

Cruz quoted Echiverri as telling her to go home or he would kill her.

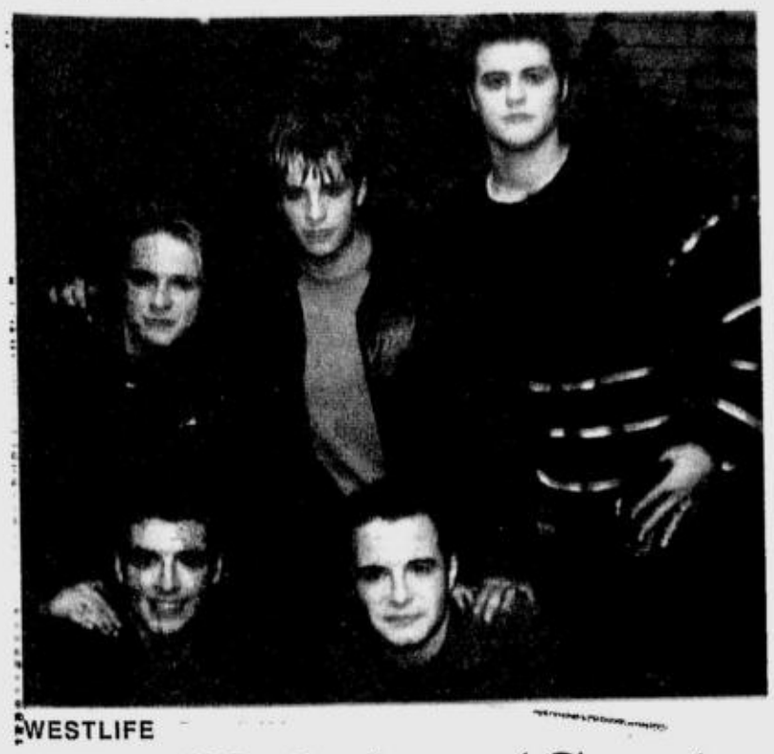
When told that Cruz was not a registered voter of Caloocan, Echiverri allegedly ordered his men to "monitor" her. He then left after allegedly twisting her arm.

Cruz said Echiverri only let go of her arm when residents began flocking to the scene.

Malapitan said he assisted his cook in filing with the Caloocan police criminal complaints against Echiverri, who is a member of the "Spice Boys" of Congress.

PO3 Arnel de Guzman of the Police Community Precinct 1 in Bagong Barrio said the incident was recorded in the police blotter.

But he said police were still waiting for Cruz to lodge a formal complaint.



WESTLIFE

Westlife brings 'Coast to Coast' tour to Manila

MUCH has been said and written about Westlife. In the span of their two-year career, they have carved a name for themselves in the record books only to break the same records that they themselves made.

Also within these two years, they have proven their detractors wrong by breaking away from the sophomore jinx, which usually accompanies new and aspiring artists. Their self-titled first album sold close to 500,000 units in the Philippines alone and their second offering, titled "Coast to Coast" which has been in the market for a little over five months, 280,000 units as of press time and is selling at breathtaking speed.

Recently, the group garnered their eighth No. 1 single when they released "Uptown Girl" (a remake of the Billy Joel classic). Like all of its predecessors, "Uptown Girl" went straight to the No. 1 spot in local radio and music video charts.

Fans will be happy to know that "Uptown Girl" has been included in Westlife's latsest release—the "Coast to Coast" special edition, which features eight new tracks, four of which are remixes of previous hits ("I Lay My Love on You," "Uptown Girl," "When You're Looking Like That" and a medley of the No. 1 hits). The other four are previously unreleased tracks ("Uptown Girl," "My Girl," "What Becomes of the Broken Hearted" and "I'll be There.").

"Coast to Coast" special edition" contains 25 tracks and has a free pullout poster inside.

Westlife will stage a concert at the Araneta Coliseum on May 29 at 8 p.m. as part of their "Coast to Coast" Asian Tour 2001.

Joining Westlife as support act is German pop sensation Christian Wunderlich and our very own Anna Fegi.

Tickets are available at all SM TicketNet outlets and at the Araneta Box Office.

For ticket reservations and inquiries, call 911-5555.

To those who want to try their luck in becoming Westlife's "uptown girl," grab a copy of the "Coast to Coast" special edition at any Odyssey record store in Metro Manila and Region IV and get a chance to be one of the five winners of tickets to the Westlife concert.

"Coast to Coast" special edition, released locally by BMG Records Pilipinas Inc., is now available in CDs and cassettes at record stores everywhere.

For more facts on Westlife, visit www.westlife.co.uk and www.click2_uc.com.ph.

Best of Alamid album

ALAMID re-enters the music scene by coming out with a compilation of their best songs in "Best of Alamid."

In the early '90s when the band scene was starting to make its mark, Alamid was one of the few who did with "Your Love," their hit single from their self-titled debut album. This was followed by more hits like "China Eyes," "Sama-Sama" and the comical "Batibot."

Warner Music Philippines and San Miguel Beer present "Sayawang Magdamagan ng Bayan," featuring Ang Bagong Alamid and Retrospect together in a summer concert that's sure to beat the heat right away. It will be staged May 19, 8 p.m. at Araneta Coliseum.

DREAM SATELLITE TV AT TRANSHOW

Jun Manas of Dream Broadcasting System (DBS), the first-ever Direct-To-Home (DTH) Satellite TV service provider in the country, briefs subscribers on how to use the on-screen Electronic Programming Guide (EPG) at the recently concluded Transport Show 2001 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall.

COUNTRY STYLE GUEST

Country Style recently guested at the "Cory Quirino Show" that airs every Saturday, 5 to 6 p.m. on RPN 9. Country Style is owned and operated by Megalicious Food Corp. and offers donuts and fresh food ideas. Photo shows Country Style marketing manager, Tetch Ingente (right) with Cory Quirino at the All Mall Araneta Center outlet of the restaurant chain.

'EXIT WOUNDS'

You have seen it, even if you haven't

BY RUBEN CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

THERE was a time when I could have really enjoyed a typical Steven Seagal movie, but that time is long past. I'm older now and perhaps a bit wiser. Or maybe I'm just wise enough to know I shouldn't hold my breath waiting for Seagal's next installment of mayhem. You've seen one, you've seem 'em all.

I can't remember if the first Seagal movie I saw was "Above the Law" or "Hard to Kill" but I do remember that I left the theater feeling quite entertained. "This guy can really kick some bad ass," I thought. "And this combat aikido stuff really looks good on the big screen."

I didn't mind too much the clichéd plot and the stupid lines. In fact, on a day when I just couldn't seem to get a break, that was even the kind of entertainment I was looking for to blow off some steam. Watch a movie where all the bad guys get killed, then have a beer after. Perfect.

But after a few servings of the same stuff, the succeeding Seagal movies get stale pretty quick. I know the guy is going to be making the same type of movie every chance he gets (why mess with success, right?), but at the very least I'd settle for a few surprises—like in "Executive Decision" where Seagal was blown off the plane a few minutes into the movie, never to be seen again. Or maybe Seagal could do something like "Copland" which provided Sly Stallone a change of pace that was still within the action genre.

By the way, I have a drinking buddy who still says that Seagal didn't die in "Executive Decision." Although there wasn't even a hint of it in the movie, my friend argues, vehemently, that after being blown off the plane, Seagal was actually able to parachute down safely.

What can I say? There are guys who'd rather have the Seagal standard. Seagal won't be Seagal any other way. To them, what's the point of watching the guy if he's gonna be different?

Run of the mill

And maybe they're right. Maybe Seagal, like the scorpion in that fable where he stung the frog that gave him a ride across the river, just can't help being who he is. And perhaps like the scorpion who drowned along with the frog, Seagal will also live and die by his nature.

Well, he's not exactly being blown off the movie industry doing what he does best, but his last few movies like "Under Siege 2" and "Fire Down Below" have not quite lived up to the financial success of their predecessors. In fact, the woeful run of Seagal's "The Patriot" even had the action star taking a relatively long hibernation from filmmaking. One would rightly assume change is in the offing, some revving up to get Seagal back on track.

SEAGAL survives the impossible all over again in "Exit Wounds."

"Exit Wounds," Segal's latest caper is not quite the revving up I had in mind. It has exactly what one would expect from a run-of-the-mill Seagal movie (and every other typical action movie for that matter), only everything is raised several notches—from the violence to the sheer absurdity of the plot and its characters.

Hodgepodge

It's got the requisite explosive car chases, the bloody confrontations with dirty cops, the unorthodox crime-fighting methods that piss off by-the-book superiors, the nude bars, the comic relief interspersed with the action. It's got a lot more, but why should I bother telling you about it? If you've seen the trailer, you've seen pretty much the movie.

And if you haven't seen "Exit Wounds" yet, believe me, you've seen it. It's a hodgepodge jogged out of your memory. Far from groundbreaking change, "Exit Wounds" is suffocating nostalgia. It's watching Seagal survive the impossible all over again, but this time—and unfortunately quite obviously—his stunt doubles do most of the work.

Of course I wasn't really expecting Seagal to be in a different genre altogether or in something with Oscar potentials written all over it, but why not just be in a good movie for a change? Even lightweight actors can shine in good movies.

As Samuel Gold-wyn once said, "Why should people go out and pay money to see bad films, when they could stay at home and see bad television for nothing."

So Steven Seagal die-hards, eat your hearts out. Me, I guess I still have to wait to be surprised.

Monster radio launches 'Band Breakout' 2001

MONSTER Radio RX 93.1 has just launched the second edition of the RX "Band Breakout," its exclusive artist hunt for talented, unsigned bands who deserve to be discovered by a larger audience.

The RX "Band Breakout" was envisioned as a spin-off competition of the KBP Golden Dove Award-winning musical program, "The RX Concert Series," and one of the station's many efforts to promote outstanding Filipino talent.

At stake are invaluable exposure on the pop music station, a recording contract and P50,000 cash prize.

Bands that emerged as finalists last year were Cousin Ed, Catbag Transistor, Lilian, Mayflower, Bent and Rave.

Cousin Ed was adjudged the grand prize winner on the finals night at Hard Rock Café, Makati.

The 2001 edition of "Band Breakout" will be conducted in a slightly different manner. Qualified bands may submit their entries only during a specified period—April 15 to June 30. Bands must comprise at least three members, with at least two instrument players. Entries on CD or cassette formats must contain at least one original song and a cover performance. Grand finals will be held on Oct. 17.

For more information, bands may visit the station at 17/F Strata 2000 Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Concorde artists touring the malls

CONCORDE Records and Asiatec Music are taking steps forward in line of the company's goal of producing and marketing original audio and video line of products.

Recently, Asiatec Music (Concorde's production outfit) released its newest singing discovery Diwata, with her hit single, "Sisirin Mo."

At the same time, prince of pop-rock Michael Laygo continues to conquer the airwaves with his hit song, "Naririto Ako," followed by his second single, "Hinding-Hindi libig sa Iba." The songs are culled from Mi-chael's album, "Narito Ako."

His third single, "Heto Ako," has also been getting good airplay in FM stations in the Visayas and Mindanao areas.

Rap artists Oblaxz and the 1998 best rap recording for Awit Awards, IPK, are also heeding their respected latest albums.

Oblaxz has "Perdegana," which has the favorite hip song, "Ang Gusto Ko." IPK, meanwhile, released their latest, "Money or Respect."

The Concorde artists are now touring the malls as part of their promo tour.

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5 DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINUTES
6 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAUA KA
7 DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
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2 DOLBY SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
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5 DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8 DOLBY SURROUND	15 MNUTES
9 DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
10 DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
11 DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
12 DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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2 DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
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5 DOLBY DIGITAL	LUCKY NUMBERS
6 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
7 DOLBY SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
8 DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
9 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
11 DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
12 DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW SALVATION
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2 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6 DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
8 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
9 DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
10 DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
12 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
SM CITY NORTH EDSA	**9295452**
1 DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR &SPICE
2 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4 DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5 DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6 DOLBY SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
7 DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
9 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10 DOLBY SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
11 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HALIK NG SIRENA
12 DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
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3 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4 ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 ULTRA SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
6 ULTRA SURROUND	DIVINO
7 ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
8 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9 ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
TUTUBAN CENTER	**2514302**
1 ULTRA SURROUND	15 MINUTES
2 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
SM CEBU	**2313876**
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2 ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3 ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4 ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
5 ULTRA SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
6 ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
7 DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
SM ILOILO	**3209422**
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2 ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3 ULTRA SURROUND	RECESS
4 ULTRA SURROUND	THEY NEST
5 ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
6 ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
7 ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8 ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
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2 DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SUGAR & SPICE
3 DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5 SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
6 DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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2 15 MINUTES	2 SAY IT ISN'T SO (In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)	6 SOMEONE LIKE YOU (In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND)	2 SOMEONE LIKE YOU (In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND)	2 FINDING FORRESTER (In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND)
3 NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST?	3 15 MINUTES (THX) (In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	7 SUGAR AND SPICE (In DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	3 15 MINUTES (In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND)	3 15 MINUTES (In DTS DIGITAL SOUND)
4 BALIKTARAN	4 ANATOMY (Phil. Premiere) (In DTS DIGITAL SOUND)	Art Film	4 Onstage	4 LUCKY NUMBERS (In DTS DIGITAL SOUND)
				5 EXIT WOUNDS (In DTS DIGITAL SOUND)

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	FINDING FORRESTER
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5	RESERVE
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7	15 MINUTES
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2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	MAY ISANG PUSO
6	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS)	LUCKY NUMBER
9 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES

Caloocan
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2	BALIKTARAN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	BALIKTARAN
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4 (SDDS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
5	15 MINUTES
6 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	HALIK NG SERENA
4	MAY ISANG PUSO
5 (SDDS)	RESERVE
6	15 MINUTES
7 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
8	RESERVE

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1	15 MINUTES
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	MAY ISANG PUSO
4	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
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2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN

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1	
2	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

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2	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
3	SA PILING NG IBA
4	15 MINUTES
5	BALIKTARAN

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	MAY ISANG PUSO
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	BALIKTARAN
4	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
5	EXIT WOUNDS
6	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	MAY ISANG PUSO
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4	
5	

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2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS

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2 (DTS)	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema
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1 (SDDS)	15 MINUTES
2	BALIKTARAN
3	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
4 (DTS)	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	MADERASO
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4	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

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1	BALIKTARAN
2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	THE CROW

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	AIR BUD
2	HALIK NG SERENA
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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2	BALIKTARAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

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2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	BALIKTARAN

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1	HALIK NG SERENA
2	THE MEXICAN
3	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
4	EXIT WOUNDS

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1	EXIT WOUNDS
2	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

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2	BALIKTARAN
3	RESERVE
4	EXIT WOUNDS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	MAY ISANG PUSO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LUCKY NUMBERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	15 MINUTES
ODEON-2	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
ROBEN	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS CONGENIALITY / DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	15 MINUTES
QUEZON-1	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
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CINEMA-1	RECESS
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CINEMA-1	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-3	HALIK NG SIRENA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RECESS: SCHOOL'S OUT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
CINEMA-6	ABAKADA ...INA
CINEMA-7	INIT NG DUGO
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-12	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-14	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-15	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-2	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-3	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-4	SAY IT ISN'T SO
CINEMA-5	LUCKY NUMBERS
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Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

Brendan Fraser makes it big

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR years now, movie people have been saying that **Brendan Fraser** has all the elements needed to make it big as a film star. He's tall, handsome, charismatic, buff, has a great sense of humor and is a versatile performer.

For some reason, however, it's taken a long time for mainstream moviegoers to warm up to the promising young actor. He started playing lead roles in small independent films that didn't really take him anywhere.

Then, "George of the Jungle" turned out to be a surprise comedy hit, and Fraser was finally on his way.

However, the shift from minor star to bankable headliner took even longer. Fraser tried out different film formats, with mixed results.

Then it was cannily decided to package him as a young **Harrison Ford** in a film patterned after Ford's big "Indiana Jones" starrers. The vehicle, "The Mummy," did click with action-adventure-comedy fans, making a very impressive $43 million on its first weekend.

It ended up grossing around $150 million in the United States alone. Since $100 million is the cut-off figure for hit films, "The Mummy's" gross meant that Fraser had hit it very big, indeed.

After "The Mummy," Fraser had his pick of plum roles in adventure, comedy or fantasy vehicles, but his choices were not always as astute as his decision to do "The Mummy." In fact, only a couple of months ago, one of his new starrers bombed at the tills.

But Film Year 2001 is still going to end up as Fraser's best to date, thanks to the huge success that his new film, "The Mummy Returns," is currently enjoying in the States.

The sequel to "The Mummy" had an even more boffo opening weekend earlier this month, earning a whopping $68 million at the box office. The movie did very well in all of the 3,000-plus theaters where it played, earning an average of $20,000-plus per location.

Compare that to the figuers for a standard release like "Someone Like You" (**Ashley Judd, Hugh Jackman**), which made only an average of $797 in each of its 481 locations.

The difference between 3,000 and 480 theaters can be attributed to producers' and distributors' evaluation of a film's chances of clicking with the general film audience.

The 3,000 theaters for "The Mummy Returns," indicates that, based on the success of "The Mummy," its sequel was expected to score big, perhaps even bigger, with moviegoers.

It turns out that this evaluation was right on target, because "The Mummy Returns" ended up making $25 million more than the first "Mummy" movie on its first wekeend.

The sequel's $20,000 location earnings are even more impressive and are enough testament to Fraser's strong drawing power today – if fans find his new movie right for him.

They gave "The Mummy Returns" two thumbs up, indicating that they like Fraser best in his "signature" action-adventure-comedy film format.

Fraser's latest success has put him in the forefront of the race for superstardom among Hollywood's current crop of leading men in their 20s and 30s. A little more box-office muscle, and he could be breathing down **Matt Damon** and **Brad Pitt**'s necks as early as next year.

He could end up duplicating Harrison Ford's prodigiously successful stellar career, which has kept Ford at the top of the film heap for decades. But we hope that, just like Ford, Fraser will be given a chance to do more than just adventure films, and that he can make his mark in other types of movies.

As long as he keeps the hits coming, Fraser can sustain the upward trajectory that his two "Mummy" films have set him on. And he continues to crow, "Show me the Mummy!"

Crime as entertainment

(Continuation)

FIFTH, the fictive elaborations on the basic facts become so numerous and imaginative that it's hard to appreciate the factors actually involved in the commission of the crime. So much for "analysis"—the viewer just gets swept along by the onrushing events of the dramatization, and he soon focuses almost exclusively on the production's entertainment value.

We believe that perceptive viewers should get worried about the intensified popularity of crimes on TV because it's become so prevalent, thus maximizing its potential for negative effects on viewers, particularly the impressionable youth.

What about the channels themselves? The KBP? Media watchdog groups? Parents' and teachers' associations?

We urge them to view our newscasts and crime-oriented shows, and if they agree that things have gotten out of hand, they too should speak up before our channels think that viewers' silence on this score means tacit permission for them to do their worst.

Cynthia's schedule

CYNTHIA Alexander's performances this month: May 19, 4 p.m., NU107 Pocket Concert, Megastrip, SM Megamall. May 22, N/A Records Night, pinoy Central at '70s Bistro, Anonas, Q.C. May 26, Metropop finals, where Cynthia interprets "Kawikaan" by Laverne M. Ducut and Catherine A. Carlos.

'Tomorrow's World'

EVERY Monday at 11 p.m. this month, "Tomorrow's World" on the National Geographic channel presents exciting developments in science and technology:

"Blind Spot" makes a blind man's dream of driving a racecar come true. "Eye Chip" shows how your range of vision can be expanded by a wrist gadget that gives you an aerial view of an area, as seen from a helicopter.

And "Butane Gas" showcases an insulating jacket that protects against explosions.

Nonoy Zuñiga goes pop

BY FRED SAMANTELA

IN his 12th album in his 20-year-old recording career, Nonoy Zuñiga drops his Lou Rawls and R&B sounds and goes pop. The album, "Impressions," was launched at the 11th hour, while he was campaigning for councilor in the first district of Makati City.

"I've been promoting the album for the past two days in malls," Nonoy said during the launch, six days before election day, at the Hard Rock Café in Makati. "Next I'll promote it in more malls and on radio."

The album is acoustic, according to its executive producer, Tato Malay. The guitar players are EJ Delgado, Nonoy's nephew who used to be with the rock band the Weed and is now with Radioactive Sago Project, and Perf de Castro. Although these two guys took up classical guitar in the conservatory, they are better known as rock players.

The arranger is Jun Tamayo, lead guitarist of many showbands.

Clearly, the album would sound different.

The songs cover two decades—late '70s and '80s. It is amazing that singers don't end up with similar album repertoires when they revive old songs. The songs' copyright owners have no way of monitoring or controlling this. It's all gut-feel and creative instinct, which is why the choice of songs was a tightly guarded secret in the recording studio.

The album took two months to record. Tato usually spent the whole day and night in the studio until one day when Nonoy complained. He was dead-tired, although his voice wasn't. Althought Tato thought it was still possible to extend the vocal dubbing session, he gave in to Nonoy's request for a respite.

My initial apprehensions were about the change in sound but these vanished when I listened to the CD for a second time. Then I recalled that the album's vocal coach is Zebedee, Nonoy's younger brother who is a solo artist and is also with The Opera band. Zeb won't let anything be less than perfect in the studio. It's all in the family.

The '70s and '80s are full of icons which the album reintroduces to today's Gen Z: "We've Only Just Begun" (Carpenters) "Lady Wants to Know" (Michael Franks), "Travelling Boy" (Paul Williams) and "Sandra" (Barry Manilow). "Sandra" in particular was an anthem of the '70s unmatched by other songs in the recent decade.

"Travelling Boy" was dug up before it became lost in oblivion.

The album also has "Maybe This Time," "Nothing's Gonna Change My Love for You" (George Benson), "Just a Love Song," "Is It okay if I Call You Mine" (Paul McCrane), "If You Walked Away" (David Pomeranz), "Fallin'" (Terri de Sario) and "Love the One You're With" (Crosby, Stills & Nash). The second half is more laid-back and offers more choices than the first half.

Nonoy reinterprets the hits of the past but no full-orchestra is backing him, only acoustic guitars. It's back to basics with a very pop flavor. He goes a step further by eschewing his Lou Rawls sound and opting for his natural pop voice. Major decisions.

In his Hard Rock show Nonoy sang cuts from his past albums (a Lou Rawls original, "I'll Never Say Goodbye," "If Ever I Would Leave You," "Init Sa Magdamag" and a Martin Nievera song from his "Duets" album) before singing his new songs.

Nonoy worked with the Department of Social Welfare and Development for four years. He is now a director of the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons. He is also busy with the show "Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko."

Lou Rawl's is out. Nonoy Zuñiga is in.

NO, NO, Nonoy doesn't sound like Lou Rawls anymore.

Vehnee Saturno music to make another star of new singer

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

COMPOSER and hitmaker **Vehnee Saturno** has helped made superstars out of such singers as **Jaya** and **Ariel Rivera** by giving them one hit after another.

Vehnee is trying to propel another newcomer to stardom with his music.

Mari, 18, makes her recording debut with "Alipin Ako," a Vehnee Saturno original. The song is the carrier track of her eponymous 14-track album from Star Records.

Mari was offered a two-year recording deal after she auditioned last year. But she didn't work on her album right away. Last November, Star Records sent her to compete in the Shanghai Music Festival in China, where she won the bronze. **Tin Arnaldo**, another Star Records talent, bagged the grand prize.

Mari interpreted Vehnee's "Sing But One Song" in the Shanghai festival. The song is also included in her debut album.

Mari, born in Rome and raised in London, is thus starting a singing career in Manila. Her father, Marcelino Placencia, gave up his job in London to be in Manila with his only child. Her mom, **Edith Nallos Placencia**, stayed behind in London where she manages the family's restaurant.

In London, Mari started singing at an early age. At 8, she won in "Tawag ng Tanghalan" amateur singing contest where she belted out "Power of Love." That same year, she was cast as one of the workhouse children in a West End production of "Oliver."

When she was 14, Mari was one of the five winners of the Most Talented Children in Britain, picked from among 25,000 hopefuls.

"Back then, most of our Filipino friends in London were telling us to bring Mari to Manila so she can start a career here," says her dad.

Mari is now a regular performer at Hyatt Regency's Calesa Bar, where she sings on Thursday nights.

In July, she is scheduled to go back to London and do a benefit concert there for the Filipino community.

One day, she also hopes to work at the West End, just like **Lea Salonga** and **Monique Wilson** did.

Stars hail Bee Gees album

HONG KONG music superstar **Jackie Cheung** recently hailed the new album of the Bee Gees, "This Is Where I Came In." The 14-track album released in the Philippines by MCA-Universal contains all original tunes written and performed by the brothers **Barry, Maurice** and **Robin Gibb**.

Cheung wrote: "The very first time I heard the music of the Bee Gees was in 1970. The song that I remember most was 'Massachusetts' which, to me, combined a wonderful melody line with simple yet evocative lyrics.

"Over the years, what has impressed me has been the durability and versatility of the Bee Gees, their strong melodies and simple, heartfelt lyrics which have always managed to break down language barriers and cultural differences.

"I like ballads like 'To Love Somebody,' 'How Can You Mend a Broken Heart' and the beautiful 'Too Much Heaven,' disco anthems which combined their always strong melodies with a more R&B-influenced sound such as 'Night Fever,' 'Staying Alive,' 'Tragedy' and the infectious 'Jive Talkin.'

"Whether you're a fan of Take That, **Al Greene, Celine Dion, Barbra Streisand** or Boyzone, one thing you should remember is that some of their greatest hits came from the talents of the three songwriters Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb.

"Now, the Brothers Gibb have come full circle with their new album, 'This Is Where I Came In.' It is an album full of those familiar melodies, beautiful harmonies, the unique lead vocals of Barry and Robin, and music that will always be timeless.

"Listen to this album and you'll know what I mean."

Not only Cheung

PETER Gabriel of Genesis once expressed his admiration for the Bee Gees, when Genesis recorded its debut single, "Silent Sun."

"I tried to sing a bit like Robin Gibb on the second verse," Gabriel said.

John Travolta, who starred in "Saturday Night Fever," said: "When Barry, Robin and Maurice get around the microphone, it's pure magic."

"Saturday Night Fever" kicked off the best-selling disco tunes of the Bee Gees, making it the biggest-selling movie soundtrack of all time.

Sony Bono: "I'm all about the Bee Gees. There's The Beatles, Rolling Stones and the Bee Gees."

Elton John: "Their concerts are the best."

Stephen Stills of Crosby, Stills and Nash: "Barry is a hell of a record maker. And by God, he has written some damn fine songs."

Rod Stewart: "They're everlasting."

Alice Cooper: "Great songwriters. I love their music."

Neil Sedaka: "I have the biggest respect for the Bee Gees."

Toni Braxton: "I love them. I have all their records."

Celine Dion. "I'm a big Bee Gees fan."

TROPICAL FOREST GIGS

Entertainment doesn't stop at Tropical Forest which bares its band line-up this month. The all-female trio of Marmalade performs smooth jazz and R&B tunes on Tuesdays. Volume 3 sings pop music on Mondays, Real Groove dishes out favorite '70s tunes on Wednesdays, Big Nite Out grooves to dance music on Thursdays. Weekends showcase the energetic group Part E on Fridays, while Cruisin takes centerstage on Saturdays. For inquiries, visit or call Tropical Forest along T.M. Kalaw corner Parade st., Rizal Park, Manila. Tel. No. 400-7438.

MARI. Sings not just one song, but 14 tracks in her debut album.

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SAY IT ISN'T SO - P 13 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20	LUCKY NUMBERS - P 13 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:40	SOMEONE LIKE YOU - P 13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

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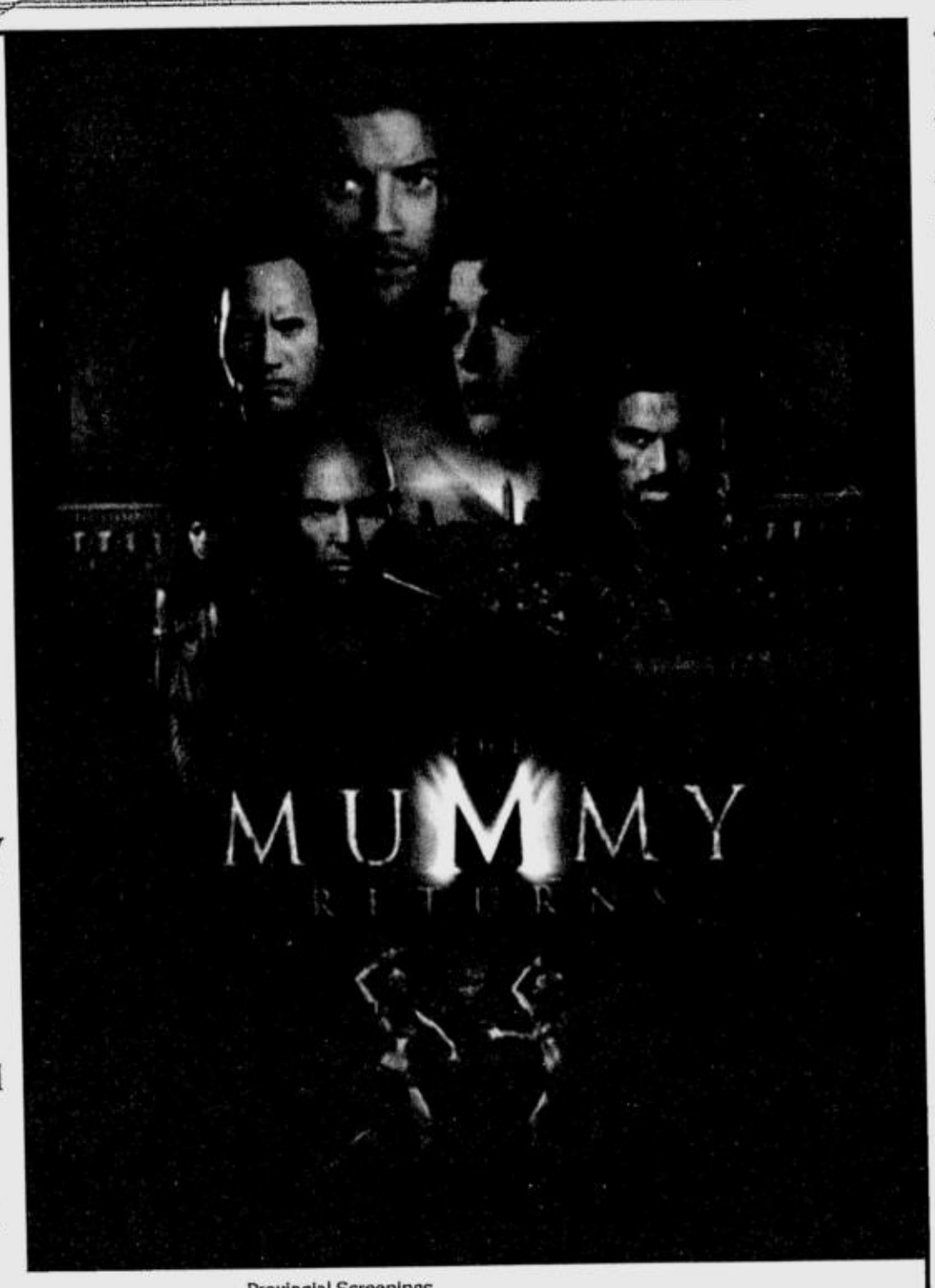

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DYLL-FM 94.7 CEBU May 21 Monday 7:30p.m. SM Cebu City

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MTRCB RATING | PG-13 | Viewers 13 yrs. old & below must be accompanied by an adult. | Regular Showing: May 23

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Young Filipino filmmaker wins Discovery Channel competition in Singapore

DISCOVERY Channel has announced the six winners of its first-time filmmakers' initiative in Asia. The winners were selected from among 12 participants at the end of an intensive two-day workshop held in Singapore late last month.

The winners will have the opportunity of producing a 30-minute documentary to be aired on Discovery Channel during the 4th quarter of 2001 in and around the Asian region.

Kidlat de Guia, a 25-year-old Filipino, was among the winners for his entry, "Trojan Box."

The other winners and their respective entries are: Mohd Naguib Razak of Malaysia with "The Boat-maker and the Sea;" Chandra Tanzil of Indonesia with "Yadi;" Tan Pin Pin of Singapore with "This Beautiful House;" Prakhan Chalaemkhet of Thailand with "When Technology and Innovation Enter Dharma Practice Zone;" and Chung Chiang Yeh of Taiwan with "Cultural Preservation Through Technology."

James Gibbons, Discovery Channel director of programming said, "We are extremely delighted with the six winning filmmakers and their ideas. The six stories each address the theme of modem technology impacting on cultural traditions in a way that delivers universal truths, while capturing the uniqueness of each society."

Discovery Channel's First-Time Filmmakers is targeted at young talent keen to produce their first international documentary and see it broadcast on Discovery Channel around the region. The six winners received production budgets and professional advice while making their half-hour film. Over the next five months, the learning and the sharing will continue as the six selected First-Time Filmmakers produce their films.

"Trojan Box" of Kidlat de Guia of the Philippines is based on his undergraduate thesis. The story revolves around the impact of westernization on the culture of the Igorot tribe who live around the Cordillera mountains.

From Malaysia, "The Boat Maker and the Sea" by Mohd Naguib Razak tells of the story of the boat makers of Palau Duyung or Mermaid Island. It used to be that there were 30 boat-making yards in the island. But now, only three remain.

"Yadi" is the story of a young peasant boy whose dreams changed when an international airport suddenly comes into his life. Now, Yadi wants to become a pilot. The film is authored by 35-year-old Chandra Tanzil, a graduate of anthropology at the University of Indonesia.

Tanzil, a video scriptwriter and writer in various publications, advertising agencies and production houses in Indonesia, is now the creative film and director of Yasawirya Tama Cipta, the largest production house in Jakarta.

Tan Pin Pin, a master of fine arts from Northwestern University in America and who was born and raised in Singapore, writes of the nostalgia and realities in modern day Singapore. Her story, "This Beautiful House," asks how a family affected by a government order to exhume the remains of their loved ones deal with the exhumation and relaction of the said remains.

KIDLAT de Guia has been commissioned to produce a documentary for Discovery Channel, to be aired on the Asian region.

From Thailand, the youngest filmmaker, Prakhan Chalaemkhet who is only 23, writes how the Thai monks take to the internet to spread the word of Buddhism in his entry, "When Technology and Innovation Enter Dharma Practice Zone."

Still anchored on information technology is Taiwan's entry, "Cultural Preservation Through Technology," by Chung-Chiang Yeh. From the villagers' rejection to acceptance, from the students' normal usage to exercising their creativity, the Atayal aborigines in Baling region have understood that the internet does not discriminate against anybody.

They believe that once they clinch the power of the internet, they can grab the opportunity of being at par with any other human being. Not only will they use technology to preserve their traditions, but they will also use it to develop their future.

The panel of judges who selected the winning entries were: Chris Haws, senior vice president and executive producer of Discovery Networks International; Bruce Moir, supervising producer of Discovery Networks International; James Gibbons, director of programming of Discovery Networks Asia; and Vilram Channa, senior manager of evaluation and development of Discovery Networks Asia.

FIRST-TIME FILMMAKERS. (Lower left) Kidlat de Guia of the Philippines, Mohd Naguib Razak of Malaysia; (upper left) Chuang-Chiang Yeh of Taiwan, Prakhan Chalaemkhet of Thailand, Tan Pin Pin of Singapore and Chandra Tanzil of Indonesia, pose with James Gibbons, director of programming of Discovery Networks Asia and Chris Haws, senior vice president and executive producer of Discovery Networks International.

Boy interviews broadcast icons

BROADCAST icons Jullie Yap Daza and Tina Monzon Palma are the special guests in "Private Conversations with Boy Abunda," tomorrow night, May 16, 9-10 p.m. on the ABS-CBN News Channel 21.

Host Boy Abunda engages Tina and Jullie on a tête-á-tête on various topics including men, women, mistresses and politics.

Jullie joins the News Channel 21 family with her new show, "Tell the People Now," Fridays, 9 p.m., with replays on Saturdays, 5 p.m.

The new show is a spin-off of the much popular "Tell the People," which Jullie hosted on RPN 9. Before she transferred to ANC 21, Jullie hosted her own show on ABS-CBN.

Tina hosts "Talkback with Tina" on ANC every Monday, 9 p.m., with replays on Tuesdays, 5 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 p.m.

"Private Conversations with Boy Abunda" is now on its second year and remains one of the top-rating shows on ANC. Last Wednesday, "Private Conversations" premiered on its new timeslot with two senatorial candidates, Winnie Monsod and Liwayway Chato.

"Private Conversations" started last year when Boy Abunda interviewed New Age guru Deepak Chopra. Since then, the show has become a venue for in-depth and interesting conversations.

Among its guests were "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series author Mark Victor Hansen, Sen. Loren Legarda, former Censors chief Armida Siguion-Reyna, Rep. Joker Arroyo, Sen. Juan Ponce-Enrile, Rep. Manny Villar, Sec. Renato de Villa, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, newspaper publisher Eugenia Apostol, Sen. Juan Flavier, Kris Aquino, liposuction expert Dr. Vicky Belo and designers Rajo Laurel and Inno Sotto, among others.

"Private Conversations" was also honored for having done the first studio interview of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo when she assumed presidency.

The show is directed by Bobby Garcia. Executive producer is Nikka Santos.

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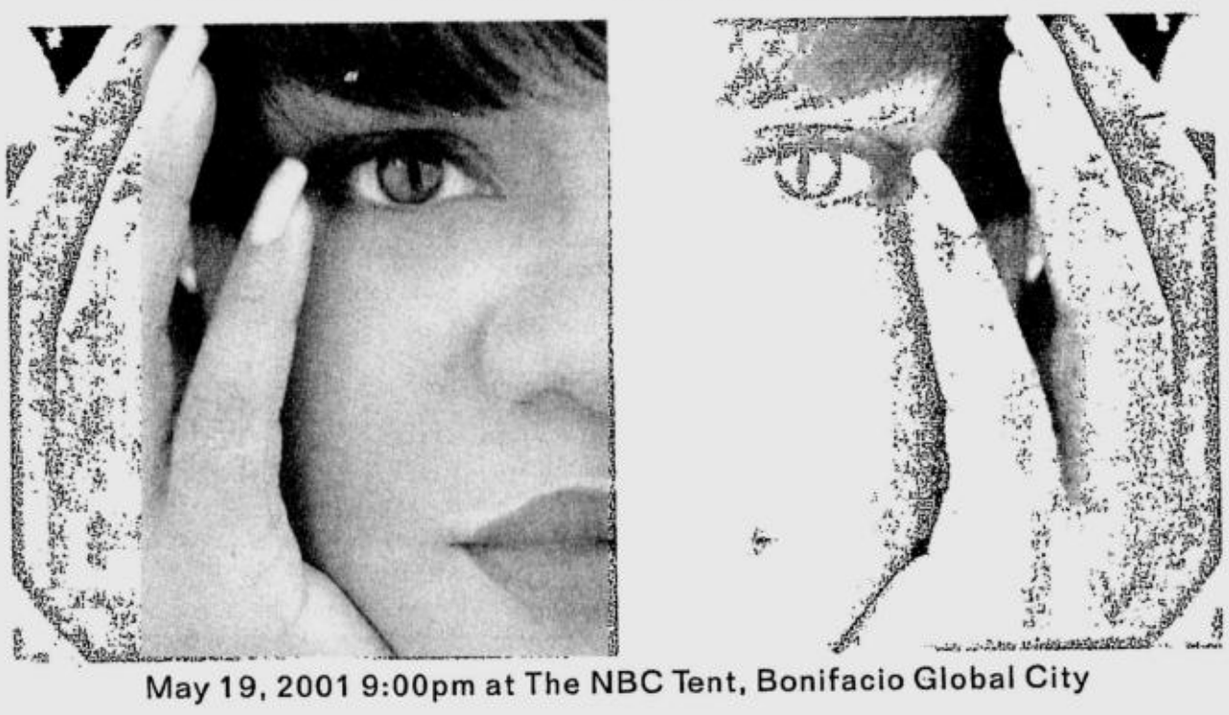
with the voice that moved your soul...

BACK TO SYBILIZATION



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Enron seen phasing out RP operations

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

US power company Enron Corp. is planning to phase out its multibillion-peso investments in the local power generation sector in line with its global strategy to trim down exposure in emerging markets, including the Philippines.

Enron recently backed out of a P4.3-billion power project in Bulacan, supposedly a joint venture with the Yuchengco-owned EEI Corp.

Asked about recent developments on the 40-megawatt biomass power plant in Bulacan, EEI president and COO Samson Lazo told reporters that Enron was no longer participating in the P4.3-billion project.

Lazo said Enron was pulling out of the project "because it wanted to concentrate on trading."

He said Enron would look for another group to which it would assign its stake in the Bulacan power project.

"The project (biomass power plant) is still viable. It will push through once we find new investors," he added.

INQUIRER sources said Enron was selling its other existing businesses in the Philippines. They said the decision has nothing to do with the country's political and economic situation. "It is part of the Houston headquarters' decision to concentrate more on developed markets including North America and Europe.

The sources said that Enron, one of the world's largest integrated natural gas and electricity companies with approximately $15 billion in assets, was pursuing the same divestment path in Latin America and other emerging markets.

In the Philippines, Enron was among the companies tapped by state-controlled National Power Corp. to help solve the power crisis in the early 1990s by putting up power generation plants in the country.

Through its local subsidiaries, Enron financed and constructed a number of power generation plants in the country including a 116-megawatt plant in the Subic Freeport and Economic Zone and a 110-megawatt facility in Batangas.

Enron's subsidiaries in the Philippines are Enron Development Philippines Ltd., Enron Subic Power Corp. and Ilijan Power Corp.

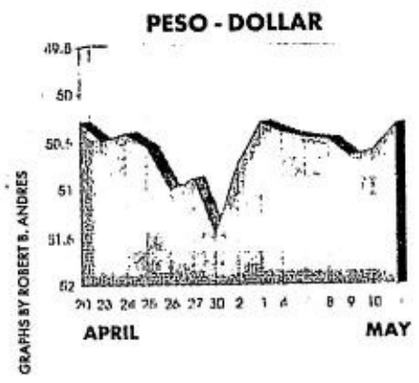
The Enron group operates one of the biggest natural gas transmission systems in the world and is the largest purchaser and marketer of natural gas in North America. It also markets natural gas liquids worldwide and manages the biggest portfolio of fixed-price natural gas risk management contracts in the world.

Enron earlier acquired nine of Napocor's power barges for P2.1 billion in a bidding.

Three of the barges are in Navotas, Metro Manila; one in Polloc, Maguindanao; one in Cebu City; another in Calumpang, General Santos City; one in Tacloban City; one in Iloilo City, and one in Cortes, Bohol.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

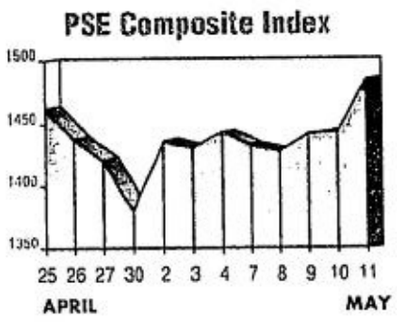
₱50.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., May 11, 2001

¥122.62 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 122.62 as of 5 p.m., May 11, 2001

GOLD: $269.10/269.80
per ounce Hong Kong, May 11, 2001

STOCK MARKET

Bearish trade seen



(See stock market report on Page B6)

DESPITE a strong rally on Friday, the bears are seen ruling the market this week.

Analysts said most investors would await for opportunities to perk up the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index beyond 1,500, and would specifically look at the outcome of today's national and local elections for guidance.

Another key factor would be an expected cut in the key rates of the US Federal Reserve on May 15.

3 Japan firms investing in IT projects

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE BOARD of Investments is expecting at least three major Japanese companies to pump in multimillion-dollar investments into the country's information technology sector this year. These companies are Nippon Steel, NTT Software and Tobe Kako.

Nippon Steel, the world's No. 2 steel producer behind South Korea's POSCO, is planning to produce special wire bond materials used to make computer chips. Tobe Kako is also putting up a facility for electronic products. NTT Software is keen on putting up a software development center in the country.

BOI managing head Vincent Perez Jr. said these incoming projects were proof of the growing interest among Japanese companies to tap the Philippines IT capabilities for their outsourcing requirements and production expansion.

Aside from investing in the country, these Japanese companies have also expressed interest in hiring more Filipino workers in their factories at home. The Philippines and Japan have earlier agreed to push for the standardization of IT education in Southeast Asia to facilitate the deployment of IT workers in the region to key economies worldwide.

A common standard for IT education is expected to further boost demands for IT workers in the region as employers would be more confident in the skills of IT certified professionals.

During his visit to Japan, Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry has agreed to establish closer coordination with its counterpart in the Philippines for a training program that would familiarize Filipino IT professionals with the Japanese language.

Roxas said Japan has given the Philippines a grant to purchase 20,000 computers to be distributed to all public high schools nationwide. The program aims to give Filipino students broader access to computers and the Internet.

The Philippines is currently batting for the financing of $1.5 billion worth of about a dozen information technology projects under the Japanese Government's Comprehensive Cooperation Package.

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S&P seen to maintain negative outlook for RP

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MACAPAGAL administration is in for another disappointment as credit rating firm Standard & Poor's indicated that, like its colleague Moody's Investor Service, it would retain a negative outlook for the Philippines until political uncertainties in the country have settled down.

A ranking official of the Department of Finance said Standard & Poor's would likely confirm the position of Moody's that the Philippines' political and economic climate remain in a fragile state.

However, the official said that if the election turnout would be positive , the country could expect a slight change in the country's rating.

A team from the New York-based credit rating firm visited the country in early April to assess if there was any improvement in the economic and political environment in the country during the Macapagal administration's transition period.

The team was tasked to see whether existing conditions in the Philippines would warrant an upgrade in the outlook for the Philippines from negative to stable. Standard & Poor's was the first to downgrade its outlook for the country to a negative a week after the "Juetengate" scandal broke out.

Moody's similarly downgraded its outlook a week later and in the last days of the Estrada administration, European credit rating firm IBCA Fitch had placed the country on its negative watch. IBCA Fitch, however, had lifted its negative watch last March.

The DOF had requested Standard & Poor's to release its decision after the elections and the credit rating firm was inclined to agree.

Moody's decision to retain its negative outlook for the Philippines last April 23 surprised the government which was expecting a slight improvement in the country's rating.

Moody's cited the "re-emerging political uncertainty" as the main reason for its decision. Two days after the release of Moody's rating for the Philippines, supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada started their mass action in Edsa which led to the bloody assault in Malacañang on May 1

Representatives of the Macapagal administration led by outgoing Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura were scheduled to meet with Moody's after an Asian Development Bank conference in Hawaii, said the DOF official.

The DOF official said the retention of a negative outlook by Standard & Poor's might upset the market, which according to an ING Barings study, has been awaiting a re-rating of the Philippines.

Also crucial to a re-rating, said the DOF official, is the expected passage of the power reform bill in June.

"This is a strong signal that the new administration is serious in tackling reforms that previous governments had failed to pass," he said.

Romulo had admitted earlier that many of the concerns of S&P focus on how the new government would impose fiscal discipline as well as how quickly it could put in place legislative reforms.

Romulo had expressed hopes that Standard & Poor's would follow the lead of IBCA Fitch instead of Moody's.

BOI keeps old export winners, regional clustering strategy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NEW management team of the Board of Investments is clinging on to the same old industries as export winners and the same old strategy of regional clustering that the agency has promoted and utilized in the 1990s with mediocre results.

Based on the BOI's latest development program, the agency has identified automotive parts, furniture, gifts, toys and house ware, and jewelry as export winners because of their potential as major dollar earners for the country.

But these industries, despite the millions of pesos spent by the government in terms of promotion and incentives granted, have not lived up to their purpose as export winners based on their modest performance in the past few years.

These export winners were supposed to create a more balanced distribution of the country's export earnings and reduce the country's dependence on electronic and semiconductor exports.

However, export data in the past few years showed that the country has become more dependent on electronic and semiconductor exports which now account for nearly 60 percent of the country's dollar earnings.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that furniture was only third in the ranking of top exporters behind electronics (59 percent share) and garments (8 percent), but its share was a miniscule 2 percent.

This tactic of choosing export winners has been largely criticized by most businessmen who felt that it gave the BOI too much discretion in deciding which industries would succeed or fail even with token advice from selected private sector representatives.

In the development plan, the BOI is planning to develop these sectors by encouraging investments in supporting and allied industries through regional industry clusters; and inviting big-ticket companies to locate in the Philippines.

This clustering strategy of encouraging players in the same industry to locate in one region, however, has been largely ineffective because Filipino businessmen were reluctant to relocate their businesses to these industry clusters. The BOI was also blamed for naming too many industry clusters, an error which the new management hopes to correct by trimming down the list. Also, clusters that are thriving are those in existence (such as shoes in Marikina and furniture in Cebu) even before the BOI adopted this strategy.

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(Second of two parts)

MINDANAO ONE

Elisa Mutia Buctuanon and Fermin D. Adriano

MINDANAO has about a third of the country's total potentially irrigable land. Only 28 percent of this potential is irrigated, covering 264,000 hectares of farmland. Moreover, the larger irrigation facilities in the region essentially provide water for rice paddies but not encouraging crop diversification.

Mindanao has a backlog of roughly 696,000 hectares that have yet to be provided with irrigation systems. Visayas enjoys 45 percent irrigation development, despite the fact that its share of the country's potential irrigable areas is just 11 percent.

Post-harvest facilities

In the Philippines, 15 to 20 percent of production losses in agriculture and fisheries is due to the lack of appropriate post-harvest facilities that would ensure quality and a longer shelf life.

At present, the National Food Authority provides access to post-harvest facilities on a limited scale. As of 1999, out of the total number of government-built warehouses located nationwide, only about 84 (28 percent) are to be found in Mindanao.

As for metal silos and mechanical dryers, Mindanao's share of those is 17 percent and 34 percent, respectively. Luzon, for its part, is the beneficiary of more than half of the NFA-sponsored facilities.

The lack of vital rural infrastructure support, by limiting the productivity of marginal or subsistence farmers, has contributed to the poverty in the region.

More than half of Mindanao's poor depends on agriculture and fisheries for their income. Irrigation and post-harvest facilities, as well as farm-to-market roads—particularly in far-flung areas—are badly needed to increase their opportunities to earn more and thereby raise their standard of living.

The current conflict in the island-region is due in part to the government's failure to address this situation. Improving economic conditions by providing the appropriate infrastructure will help promote social equity, a critical factor in fostering peace and development.

Poverty, conflict and infrastructure

There is an interlocking relationship between political and social unrest, poverty, and inadequate rural infrastructure.

Regions that suffer from severe poverty, such as the ARMM, Western Mindanao and CARAGA, have been the regions most vulnerable to armed conflict. These areas have the least access to productive resources and basic services because of a lack of infrastructure development.

Government expenditure on this public good is vitally important, as it will help trigger private sector investment, widen the market, and bring benefits in terms of increased competition.

A World Bank (2000) study reported that the social rate of return to infrastructure (in 1985) is found to be highest in developing countries that have low levels of paved roads relative to their levels of human capital. In this study, the social rate of return to paved roads was found to be exceptionally high in the Philippines at 18 percent.

What this means is that there are potential benefits for Philippine society as a whole accruing from public funds invested in, say, irrigating remote parts of Maguindano or Sultan Kudarat.

Rather than curtail government support to these depressed areas because of peace and order problems, it would in fact be more sensible for the government to intensify spending on infrastructure in order to speed up economic development and generate social stability.

Appropriate share

The current sorry state of Mindanao's infrastructure is a result of the historically disproportionate share of the government infrastructure budget devoted to the island-region.

Although Mindanao constitutes about 35 percent of the country's land area and contributes most to the national economy in terms of gross value added in agriculture, fishery and forestry, it gets the tail end of government's infrastructure budget.

For the period of 1972 to 1988, the government had spent, on average, a measly 11 percent of its total public infrastructure funds on Mindanao.

This began to change during the Ramos administration, when budget resources for infrastructure almost doubled (21 percent). By the year 2000, under the Estrada administration, Mindanao's share of the infrastructure budget had been increased to 25 percent (excluding its budget share from the PPA, BSWM and NEA). (See table below)

This trend must be carried further still in order for Mindanao to attain its potential. Efforts to obtain the desired public investment requirement of 31 to 34 percent continue.

The region's stakeholders should not focus solely on policy reforms for increasing budget allocation share, either. We must also work at establishing institutional mechanisms, which will sustain current efforts to get Mindanao its appropriate share of public spending, as well as to ensure the efficient mobilization and use of resources.

(Elisa Mutia Buctuanon is a policy researcher at the Mindanao Business Council. Fermin D. Adriano, Ph.D., is a consultant to the Presidential Adviser on Regional Concerns.)

TABLE 2. INFRASTRUCTURE ALLOCATION FOR MINDANAO[1], 2000

In Million Pesos

	Mindanao	Philippines	% Share Mindanao
DPWH	6,670	27,650	24.1
DoTC	1,248	2,599	48.0
NIA	1,009	5,300	19.1
DA	64.3	259.1	24.8
Total	8,991.3	35,808.1	25.1

[1] Based on the figures reported to the Special Committee on Mindanao Affairs hearing.
Total excludes budget from the BSWM, PPA & NEA.

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TEXT MESSAGING

Testing the limits of freedom of expression

BY ANTHONY O. ALCANTARA

(*First of two parts*)

SPECIAL REPORT

FREEDOM of speech is something we all value, especially in the Philippines, where the media openly criticize public officials for what they are doing or not doing. Abbreviating this freedom, in any way, can cause pandemonium. Fortunately, this has not occurred yet despite the recent move of the National Telecommunications Commission to curb the proliferation of malicious or abusive text messages.

New technologies indeed present us with opportunities for doing good as well as opportunities for abuse.

NTC Commissioner Eliseo Rio Jr. says there is actually a legal basis for this: Section 24 of Department Order 11, series of 1950. Simply put, just as a person can sue anyone who abuses him verbally, he may do the same with people who abuse him through text messaging.

In the Constitution, freedom of speech is a sacrosanct concept constantly harped on by politicians, lawmakers and lawyers. This concept was culled from the US Constitution that, in turn, was a product of early 17th century thinking. In his work *Areopagitica* (1644), John Milton said, "Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties."

Limits

However, most democratic countries limit freedom of speech if it threatens civil society or if the expression of such freedom is regarded as obscene or slanderous. It is, therefore, not absolute. The degree to which this freedom can be limited partly depends on how the courts interpret a given situation. It may fall under the principle of "clear and present danger" to the government and society, or inimical statements that may corrupt public morals, instigate lawlessness and disturb public peace.

That is why it can be "arbitrary" in a way. While the sale of pornographic materials in public newsstands is illegal here in the country, it is not in other countries that similarly value freedom of speech or expression.

Freedom of speech could also be a balancing act between society's interests and the individual. Some have also espoused the nearly absolute approach to interpreting freedom of speech.

New technologies

New technologies present us with new media by which to express ourselves. But can we or should we apply the same concept of freedom of speech and assume that the dynamics are the same with traditional media?

Last year, Senators Vicente Sotto III and Robert Jaworski summoned and tried to sanction cellular phone firms for the malicious messages they were receiving. They said the messages caused them severe anguish.

Jokes about the Pope or former First Lady Luisita "Loi" Ejercito dying are not funny and people spreading such news through other media aside from text messaging can be prosecuted.

Unkind jokes and slanderous messages can indeed cause demoralization, but cellular phone companies cannot do anything about it because it is impossible to monitor tens of millions of messages passing through their networks every day.

Responsible texting

For Commissioner Rio, there is a need to impose some limit on freedom of speech involving text messaging.

"I hope to make texting a more responsible activity. People get the impression that they can transmit whatever they want through texting," said Rio, a retired brigadier general who is also a noted electronics and communications engineer.

He is regarded as a geek by many and has been credited with making scientific discoveries and inventions, among which is the development of a missile guidance system while on scholarship in Germany.

He has also been adjudged the best military intelligence group commander of the Armed Forces in 1991.

Rio said malicious text messages could be traced and the perpetrators punished.

"I don't think it would affect the industry. There will surely be due process here and the public will know that they can be punished for sending these messages. Freedom of speech is not absolute," said Rio, who added that even forwarding malicious and obscene text messages was illegal.

Sanctions

There are several steps. He says a person who receives an abusive text message should go to the complaint centers of the NTC and report the incident. Every region in the country has a complaint center.

The complainant will then have to show the cellular phone bearing the text message so that the number of the sender can be identified. An affidavit documenting the complaint must also be submitted.

The NTC will then have the cellular phone company send a text message to the sender warning him not to send any more messages again and that they can be sued if they persist.

Warnings will still be issued for the second and third offenses. After the fourth offense, the NTC will send a message asking the sender to appear at the NTC within a certain number of days to answer charges. Failure to do so will result in temporary disconnection.

It is simple enough, but many people have doubted the NTC's ability to implement it as well as the effectiveness and relevance of the plan.

(To be continued)

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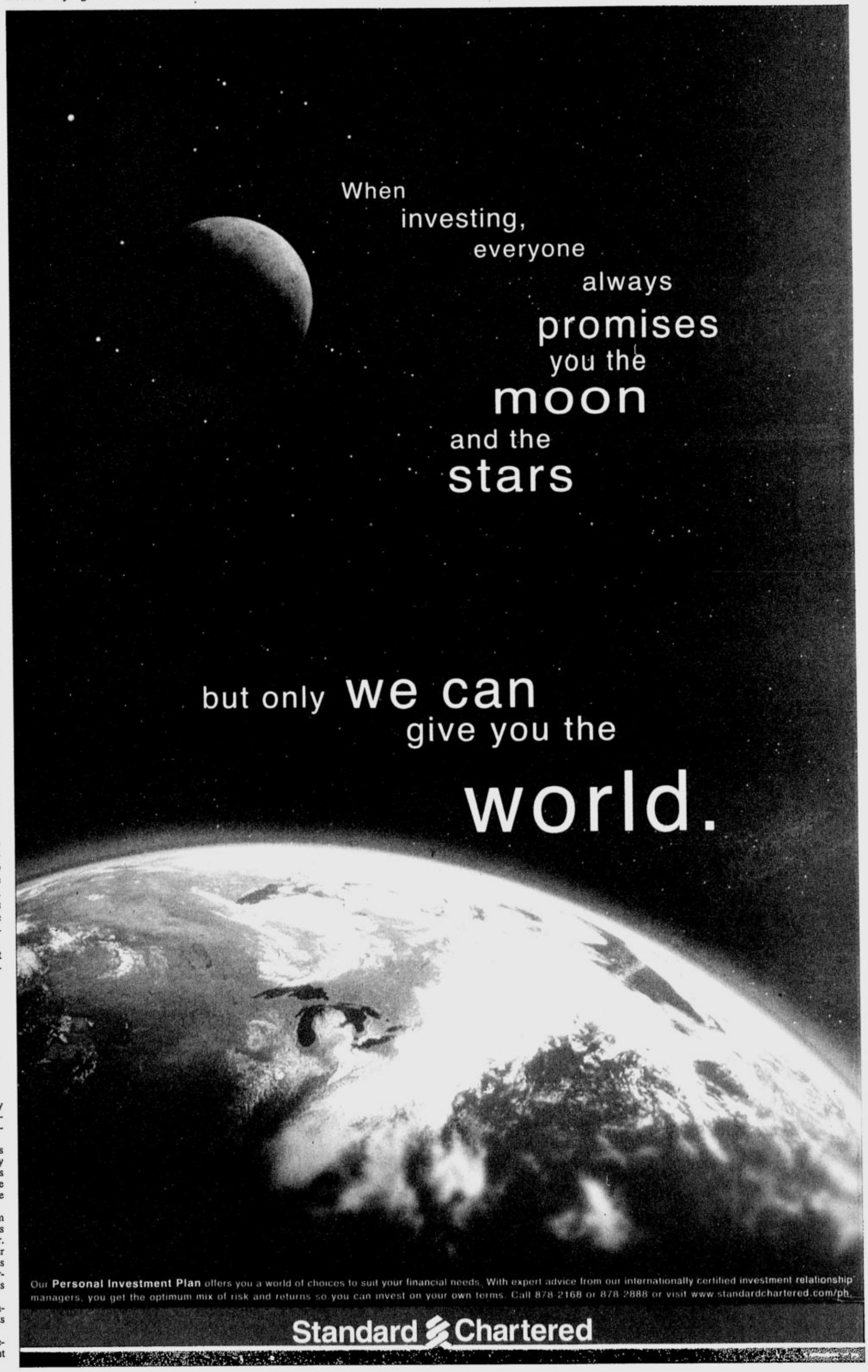

Gov't to borrow P207B to cover revenue shortfall

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE NATIONAL government faces the possibility of borrowing an additional P16 billion to P207 billion this year on account of a severe shortfall in revenue collections.

"At the rate the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) is going, its collection shortfall by year-end would easily hit P16 billion or even more, and we have to add this number to the financing requirement. Otherwise, we would end up with a higher deficit," a ranking finance official, who requested anonymity, told reporters.

The government has raised its borrowing program to P191 billion from an original P180 billion. It is seen raising this again in the second half of the year.

A government official familiar with the matter explained the increasing financing requirement was in anticipation of the BIR's failure to meet its targets. In the first four months of the year, the agency's shortfall stood close to P10 billion, he said.

National treasurer Sergio Edeza explained the national government would adopt a flexible tact in its financing program.

He assured that the government would not deprive the private sector of loans, as the 60-percent domestic mix could easily be changed.

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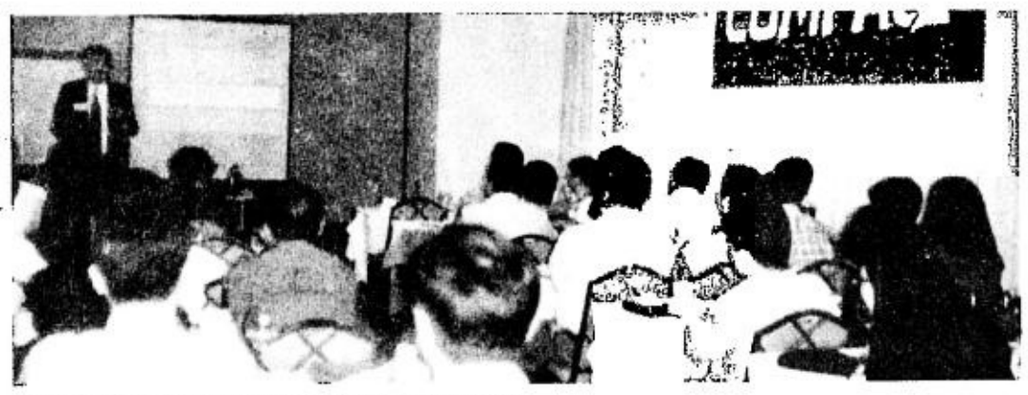
Angelo C. Molato (seated, center right), Eastern Telecommunications Philippines, Inc. (Etpi) chief operating officer and Jojie S. Yap (seated, center left), Pacific Internet managing director sign the peering agreement between Etpi and Pacific Internet through Etpi's Manila Internet Exchange (MIX). MIX will improve the efficiency of routing and the general connectivity to the Philippine Internet by Pacific Internet Philippine subscribers. Witnessing the signing are Brigs M. Merin, (seated, extreme left), Pacific Internet chief operations officer; Albert L. Tuason, (seated, extreme right) Etpi SVP for corporate strategy. Standing (from left) are Larsen Sandoval, Etpi sales manager; Angie Navarroza, Etpi account manager; Agnes Atienza-Gervacio, Etpi AVP and head, corporate and major business unit; Joevel E. Rivera, Etpi VP for Internet business unit (IBU); Vic Tria, Etpi senior manager for marketing, IBU and MIX product manager Carlo P. Estonina. Eastern Telecoms is the leading provider of Internet and Data Communications service and offers Access landline service in Manila and Caloocan.

PAPM INDUCTION

The Philippine Association of Paint Manufacturers (PAPM) recently celebrated its 40th year with the theme "Spearheading the Industry with Unified Strength for Global Competitiveness." The thrust is to upgrade the industry in the areas of sales and marketing, operations, finance, human resources and research and development. Inducting officer was president Felix K. Maramba. Keynote speaker during the affair was PAPM member Representative Jesli Lapus of the 3rd District of Tarlac who spoke on the prevailing business climate in relation to the paint industry. Shown above are the officers of the association, (from left) Vic Sy, Jr., Jun Riego, Donald Magbayao, Dean Jao, Jr., Roland Legarda, Albert Lee, PAPM president; F. Maramba, Michael Sy, Hubert Sy, Imee Gutierrez, Reginald Dumrique, Rio Ambrosio, Bobby Abad, and Tonie Vytingco.

SBC AT MERCURY DRUG

Sugarland Beverage Corp., the country's leading maker of powdered drinks, extended its all-out support to the recent grand opening of Mercury Drug's newest branch in Agora Market, Navotas. During the affair, SBC conducted a free wet sampling of Ponkana, one of its best-selling brands available in Mercury Drug. SBC's successful working relationship with its distributors, dealers and retailers is one of the reasons products like Eight O' Clock, Ponkana, Ice Cold Mix and JellyAce are undisputed market leaders in their respective categories.



COMPAQ TRAINING FOR RESELLERS

Compaq Computer Philippines, Inc. affirmed its commitment to their resellers by holding a one-day training recently held at the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center, Makati City. Shown is Lalit Malik, channel sales manager, Compaq global services, Asia Pacific discussing the different services offerings of customer services. Inquiries on Compaq products and services customers can be coursed through the Compaq Call Center toll-free number at 1-800-1-651-1111 or visit www.compaq.com.ph/services.

ADTEL TOPS TECHNICAL EXAM

Renato Garcia (left), Channels account manager of Cisco Systems Philippines, gives the PremierXpress Cisco-certified networking associate exams top scorer plaque to George de Pacina, system engineer of Adtel, Inc. PremierXpress was launched recently to ramp up resellers to become Cisco Premier partners. De Pacina also earned for Adtel a marketing program cash award of P100,000. Adtel also topped the Cisco sales expert exam which had the company bagging its second P100,000 marketing program cash award.

Sun Life Financial celebrates Mother's Day

Mother's Day is that special day when we are given the chance to thank the one person most responsible for our lives. The day when we shall honor the person who has continuously nurtured us, taught us, protected us, and the one we can always rely on to make us feel important, wanted, and loved as we truly deserve.

In celebration of Mother's Day, Sun Life Financial extends felicitations to all the mothers - - the heroes in our lives. The Company believes in the perseverance of the women of today, particularly the working mothers, in their continuous toil for a better quality of life.

To further intensify the Company's support to this noble cause, Sun Life Financial has developed products and services that are especially put together for women and their special needs. Sun Life Financial has long recognized the fact that birth giving is the single, most important factor why women are generally treated differently from men. To address this, Sun Life Financial introduces Sun Milady and Sun Milady Plus, comprehensive life insurance products designed exclusively for women, that will allow them to relish the roles of womanhood – without worrying about the difficulties these roles might bring. Addressing women's right to financial empowerment and security, Sun Milady offers:

- Lifetime insurance protection;
- Guaranteed cash values and policy dividends, which women can use as loan collateral, a supplementary funds for retirement, or ready funds to meet emergencies or take advantage of business or investment opportunities;
- Comprehensive female benefits not limited to cancers of the breast, cervix uteri, and other female reproductive organs, but also providing benefits for cases of rheumatoid arthritis and systemic lupus erythematosus;
- Surgical benefits which include hysterectomy, dilatation and curettage, major reconstructive surgery (in case of accidents), and even skin transplantation (in case of accidental burning);
- Substantial living benefits if the policyholder is diagnosed with terminal illness, specifically for cases where life expectancy is 12 months or less;
- Free diagnostic procedure annually for the first five policy anniversaries;
- In addition to all these, Sun Milady Plus provides extra benefits for pregnancy complications such as Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation, Ectopic Pregnancy and Hydatidiform Mole; and
- Benefit for every child delivered (maximum of two).

With all these benefits from Sun Life Financial, the women of today, whether she be a mother, a wife, a daughter or a career woman, are able to relish their roles of womanhood without worrying about the difficulties these roles may bring - - today or in the future.

Zurich targets top position in RP

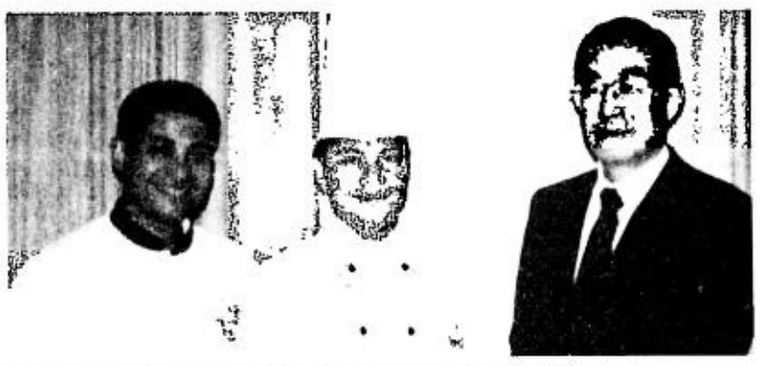
ZURICH Philippines, one of the leading providers of life and non-life insurance protection, reaffirmed its vision to be the country's distinctive financial solutions provider in the company's recently concluded annual sales summit.

Called "Conquering New Challenges," the summit allowed Zurich Philippines to give credit to the best performing sales personnel while urging everyone to aim even higher in 2001.

Zurich Philippines began operations in the country in November 1997 and now has eight business development centers nationwide. It is a member of the Zurich Financial Services Group of Switzerland.

TEXAS MEDICAL SERVICES IN RP

Staffing agency Texas Medical Services, together with Spring Branch Medical Center of Houston, Texas, led by Cuthbert "Bert" Cuevas (center), TMS head and Elizabeth Grace Bahmani (left), director Med-Surg Nursing, and Maria Belen Jardiolin, SBMC officer, discuss the many benefits for successful immigrant Filipina nurses in the United States. Details may be relayed through www.FilipinoNurses.net.



MANILA DIAMOND'S MODEL EMPLOYEE

A third time winner, chef Dennis Gamboa of the Manila Diamond Hotel's Cold Kitchen received the award as Model Employee of the Month. He was recognized in 1994 when he was with the finance department, and in 1997 when he transferred to the kitchen department. He is noted for being a dedicated and hardworking team player. Flanking Dennis during the awarding ceremonies were executive chef Boy Logro (left) and Masaru Ishibashi, executive vice president.

MSV WINNER

Michaela Riva (right) of Biñan, Laguna is seen receiving her prize for the "Nokia Raffle Promo" held recently at the company's offices in Pasig City. With her are Lerma Scu and Dottie Pineda of Bookware Publishing Corporation. For readers of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbooks, the promo has been extended another year. For details, call 631-8893 to 94.

FREE SHOT OF SOTO

Louis Maclean Far East Inc., exclusive distributor of high quality Soto Brandy recently conducted a series of store sampling dubbed "Grab a Free Shot" starting at the Landmark. The move was part of the company's thrust of increasing product visibility and encouraging trial for non-users, as all walk-in customers and passersby are given a free shot of Soto Brandy. Seen in photo are (from left) Teresa Garcia, vice president, Louis Maclean Far East Inc.; Tere Danga, marketing officer; Conrado dela Cruz, promodiser. Soto Brandy is manufactured and bottled from Spain and is now available in 700 ml and 1 liter at all supermarkets, groceries and liquor stores.

Economists write off Asia's 2001 outlook

A YOUNG Japanese couple looks at an electronic stock board in downtown Tokyo. Tokyo share prices fell following a decline on Wall Street. The 225-issue Nikkei stock average lost 170.90 points, or 1.23 percent, to close at 13,873.02. Trading remained lackluster as investors found little fresh market-moving news. AP

TOKYO—The year is barely a third over, but in the eyes of many Asian economists, it is already a write-off. They have their sights set on 2002.

Despite interest rate cuts in Asia's main export markets and pro-growth policy settings at home, illustrated by Thailand's announcement yesterday of plans to boost deficit spending, economists say the benefits will flow too late to prevent 2001 from going down as a mediocre vintage for the regional economy.

Instead, a debate is already in full swing over the timing, strength and shape of next year's expected recovery, with views differing depending on economists' reading of the global electronics market and the US business cycle.

With the electronics sector going through its steepest downturn in two decades, Asian exporters would remember 2001 as a very difficult year, said PK Basu, Credit Suisse First Boston's chief economist for South East Asia.

"But I do see some signs now of the beginnings of an inventory correction in the US new economy, and I expect we will see that through in Asian exports by the fourth quarter and a clear recovery in 2002," Basu said.

To be sure, some Asian indicators give grounds for hope.

The Federation of Korean Industries' survey of business confidence rose in May for the fourth straight month and Singapore's purchasing managers reported an upturn in orders in the electronics sector that they said could signal a bottoming-out in the sector.

Yet many economists remain skeptical of a swift turnaround.

After examining inventory, shipments and orders data for the US electronics industry, plus the correlation of the US Nasdaq with new electronics orders, Gene Frieda of Singapore Consultants Forecast expects Asia's export nightmare to continue into the fourth quarter.

"Asian export growth looks set to go negative across the board, with the possible exception of China, and may only return to positive territory in 2002," Frieda said in a note to clients.

The eventual upturn will burn the fuel now being pumped by Asia's central banks, which have been letting their currencies ease and reducing borrowing costs to cushion the blow of sagging exports.

"That is now helping to buoy domestic demand, particularly in Korea," said Basu of CSFB.

And the global interest rate environment suggests that, except for Indonesia, which is in the throes of economic and political turmoil, more rate cuts are just a matter of time.

Wall Street confidently expects the Federal Reserve to cut US interest rates this week for the fifth time this year. The Bank of Japan returned money market rates to zero in March, and the European Central Bank joined in the rate-cutting last week.

But Bill Belchere, head of fixed-income strategy for Merrill Lynch in Singapore, said it was premature in light of deteriorating economic fundamentals to expect rising global liquidity to float Asia off the rocks.

"It is a flawed analysis that would lead you to jump the gun a bit too soon," Belchere said.

An upturn in the US earnings cycle was probably still a year away; US consumer spending, so far resilient, was vulnerable to rising unemployment; Japanese inventory-shipment ratios were flashing negative signals, and fund-raising conditions were difficult, Belchere said.

"You add liquidity but who's going to invest when the global cycle is turning down? Who's going to lend to a corporate sector that's unreformed? And is the Asian consumer really going to buy when he takes his lead from what's going on in the global cycle?" he asked.

Reuters

Lamy sees EU as WTO go-between

PARIS—The European Union wants to be a go-between for the United States and less developed countries in order to facilitate the next round of world trade talks, European Union Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said.

"We want to play a role of intermediary between the United States and less developed countries," Lamy told the French daily newspaper La Tribune in an interview published on Monday.

"A bridge needs to be established for the subjects on which they are opposed: intellectual property, anti-dumping legislation and the question of environmental standards," he was quoted as saying.

Lamy reiterated that he hoped a new round of multilateral trade negotiations would be launched at the November ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization in Qatar.

The last effort to launch a fresh round of world trade talks in Seattle in 1999 failed amid rioting on the streets by protesters opposed to globalization.

Lamy said the WTO was unlikely to undergo any deep reforms in the near future, but he said the organization was floundering and needed to "get back to work."

"The first condition of efficiency would be for the WTO to become a place for legislators again. At the moment, the WTO is a permanent general assembly. The rules of consultation must be revised," he said.

Lamy said he expected China to officially join the world trade body "within a few months," but added that ratification by member-states would take longer and it was therefore not certain that China could take part in the Qatar meeting.

Reuters

Japan banks' priority bad loans, says FSA

TOKYO—Japanese banks should put priority on getting rid of their bad loans above all else, including paying dividends to shareholders, a top official at a financial watchdog said yesterday.

Financial Services Agency Commissioner Shoji Mori told a news conference that resolving the bad loan problem, a pillar of last month's government economic package, was imperative in order for the financial system to return to health.

"Disposal of bad loans is a must. It precedes everything," Mori said, responding to questions about growing speculation that major Japanese banks would skip dividends for the half-year to Sept. 30 so as to retain funds needed to write off bad assets.

Reuters

Japan PM skirts call for hard cap on bonds

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday avoided being pinned down to his proposal to cap new government bonds issuance to less than 30 trillion yen ($244.7 billion) a year, shrugging off opposition lawmakers' challenges to make it a law.

Koizumi told the budget committee of parliament's Lower House that he agreed with the spirit of a bill to set a hard limit on bond issuance which the main opposition Democratic Party had submitted to parliament, but he said there was no need to pass such a law.

"I don't think we have to make it a law as long as we present it to the public as the government's basic policy," Koizumi said in response to a Democrat's question about whether the prime minister would endorse the bill on a hard cap.

Koizumi, who took office last month, has vowed to keep new bond issuance to 30 trillion yen in the budget for fiscal 2002/03, starting next April, compared with about 28.3 trillion planned for the current year, as a first step toward a balanced budget.

"Some people say the 30 trillion yen target is too lax, by those who know would say this is very tough, because it effectively requires a spending cut of about three trillion yen," Koizumi told the budget committee.

He has said a more aggressive fiscal tightening would have to wait until the economy is firmly back on a growth track.

He also said the Democrats' proposal to achieve a "primary balance"—where government revenue meets its spending and no bond issuance is needed except to repay or service existing debt—within five years would be "extremely difficult."

Reuters

Saudi jobless rate seen as high as 20%

DUBAI—Saudi Arabia, which does not publish unemployment data, could be suffering a jobless rate as high as 20 percent, the head of the kingdom's Human Resources Development Fund said.

"There are no official unemployment figures, but my estimates as an economist show that the rate is around 20 percent," said Mohammad Abdul Aziz al-Sahlawi. His comments at a seminar in Riyadh on Sunday were obtained by Reuters on Monday.

It was among the highest rates given by economists so far in Saudi.

A recent Saudi American Bank report put the jobless rate at 14 percent in 2000, rising to 15 percent in 2001.

Saudi officials say finding jobs for a growing number of Saudi citizens was a major challenge for the government, wary of the economic and social consequences of high unemployment.

Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah last week urged private Saudi investors to repatriate some of the huge funds abroad to create jobs for fellow Saudis, saying the kingdom's riches were benefiting foreigners.

Economists say up to a total of 50,000 jobs a year are created by the state and private sectors in Saudi Arabia, far short of the 120,000 or so needed per year if the country is to meet its goals under a five-year development plan to 2005. *Reuters*

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Celebrity Sports	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Club Filipino "A"	280,000	300,000
Eagleridge "A"	400,000	430,000
Eagleridge "B"	600,000	-
Evercrest golf club "A"	Pls. Call	150,000
Forest Hills "A"	250,000	260,000
Fontana "D"	60,000	90,000
Makati Sports Club, Inc.	395,000	450,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14,000,000	
Manila Polo	4,000,000	4,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	800,000	820,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"	400,000	450,000
Mt. Malarayat "Gold B"	450,000	550,000
Phil. Columbian	Pls. Call	90,000
Quezon City Sports Club	220,000	
Riviera Golf	250,000	-
Royale Tagaytay	Pls. Call	130,000
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls. Call	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	1,600,000	1,300,000
Wack-Wack	10,000,000	-

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Capitol Hills	Pls. Call	120,000
Camp John Hay	-	350,000
Canyon Woods	400,000	
Celebrity Sports	Best Buy!	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	330,000	280,000
Eagleridge	450,000	Pls. Call
Evercrest	130,000	
Filipinas Golf	350,000	300,000
Fontana C	140,000	110,000
Fontana D	90,000	
Forest Hills A	260,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat	560,000	
Manila Golf	Pls. Call	14,500,000
Manila Polo	-	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods A	850,000	800,000
Manila Southwoods B	950,000	900,000
Mimosa A	Pls. Call	200,000
Mimosa C2	300,000	
Orchard	325,000	Pls. Call
Riviera	260,000	Pls. Call
Sta Elena	2,200,000	Pls. Call
Subic Golf	310,000	
Subic Yacht Club	450,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay CC	500,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Midlands	880,000	850,000
Tagaytay Highlands	1,100,000	Pls. Call
Tivoli Royale	230,000	
Valle Verde	196,000	175,000
Wack-wack	10,800,000	10,300,000

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Eastridge	220,000
Evercrest	110,000
Forest Hills "A"	260,000/280,000/450,000
Fontana A/B/C/D	Please call/90,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	Please call
Manila Golf (Corp.)	16,580,000
Manila Polo	3,980,000
Manila Southwoods A/B	825,000/950,000
Makati Sports B	450,000
Mimosa Corp. C2	400,000
Mt. Malarayat A	400,000
Orchard A/B/C	300,000
Puerto Azul	170,000
Riviera A/B/C	250,000/350,000/600,000
Royale Tagaytay	Please call
Sta. Elena A	2,100,000
Sherwood A/B	250,000/350,000
Subic Yacht (Indv.) & Corp.	Please call
Tagaytay Midlands	850,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	480,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	1,090,000
Valley Golf	350,000
Wack Wack	10,200,000

BUYING:	
Alabang A	2,100,000
Alabang B	2,200,000
Baguio Country Club	800,000
Camp John Hay Golf	350,000
Capitol Hills	130,000
Celebrity	210,000
Club Filipino	280,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	450,000/Please call
Forest Hill "A"	250,000/250,000/400,000
Montemar	40,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	14,500,000
Manila Golf (Corp.)	Please call
Manila Polo	3,950,000
Manila Southwoods A	800,000
Manila Southwoods B	950,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"	400,000
Mimosa Ind./Corp. 3	Please call
Orchard A/B/C	280,000/400,000/600,000
Puerto Azul	160,000
Quezon City Sports	225,000
Sta. Elena A/B	1.9M/2.2M
Tagaytay Highland Club	450,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	1,050,000
Tagaytay Midlands	850,000
Valley Golf	330,000
Wack Wack	10,000,000

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(As of Friday, May 11, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	1,200
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78	78.5	77.5	78	1,557,400
China Banking Corp.	670	750	670	750	6,930
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	44.5	46.5	44.5	46	290,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	206	214	206	214	166,160
Philippine National Bank	49.5	50.5	49	50.5	98,600
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp. A	24.5	26	24.5	26	5,900
Security Bank Corp.	19.75	19.75	18.75	19.25	6,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	100,000
Filipino Fund Inc	0.35	0.4	0.35	0.4	310,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1270	1300	1270	1300	8,860
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1085	1070	1085	13,670
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	40	41	40	41	15,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.46	0.43	0.46	3,050,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	700	700	700	700	1,390
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
Pilitel	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	260,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	700	720	700	715	416,360
Ivantage Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	330,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.043	0.048	0.043	0.048	283,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41.5	44.5	41.5	43.5	329,700
Manila Electric Co. B	58.5	60	58.5	59.5	1,895,200
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.82	1.72	1.8	13,810,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.44	1.54	1.42	1.52	9,993,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	450,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	40,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	56,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	12,002,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.25	3.5	3.2	3.35	3,305,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	1,276,400
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	29	29	28.5	29	1,335,000
Pure Foods Corp. A	95	95	95	95	200
RFM Corp.	0.98	1.04	0.98	1.04	1,480,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	47.5	46.5	47.5	82,300
San Miguel Corp. B	50	51	49.5	51	408,400
Universal Robina Corp.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.3	53,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.64	0.7	0.64	0.7	240,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.65	0.71	0.65	0.71	30,000
Ayala Corp.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.7	1,708,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.24	1.32	1.24	1.3	1,111,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	13.25	12.5	13	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.84	0.78	0.84	170,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	390,000
APC Group Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.54	9,627,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	870,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.135	0.095	0.125	44,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.06	1.12	1.06	1.12	1,621,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24.25	23.75	24.25	160,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.22	0.27	0.22	0.27	3,050,000
Ipeople Inc.	1	1	0.92	0.92	106,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1	1	1	1	91,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.92	2.02	1.92	2.02	519,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	6,110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.52	3,470,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	60,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6	6	6	6	30,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	7,460,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	20,000
Music Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.8	536,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	160,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.75	15	15.75	229,700
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.51	0.48	0.5	1,090,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.53	0.49	0.52	2,690,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	90,000
Manila Jockey Club	21	21	21	21	10,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	39.5	41	39.5	40.5	536,900
Cosmos Bottling Corp-Pref	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	14,000
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.3	3.6	3.3	3.6	46,000
Globe Tel. A-Warrants	520	520	520	520	40
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	8,600
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	41,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10	10	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
Philweb.Com,Inc -Warrants	0.034	0.039	0.034	0.039	153,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.9	5.6	5.8	13,405,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.26	0.24	0.26	300,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.35	12,570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.36	5,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.1	2.24	2.1	2.22	24,108,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7	7.2	6.9	7.1	12,539,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
Zipporah Rity Hldgs Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	43,000,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	150,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	80,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	39,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	11,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	7,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	11,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Pacifica	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	13,600,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.08	0.085	0.08	0.085	600,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,570,720	206,293,735.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	617,495,690	682,522,670.00
PRO	112,442,000	244,670,240.00
Mining	57,230,000	430,000.00
OIL	26,300,000	548,100.00
GRAND TOTALS :	816,038,410	1,134,464,745.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	619.96	UP 8.87
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,018.19	UP 52.42
PRO	590.81	UP 20.15
Mining	1,152.64	UP 6.69
OIL	1.44	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	772.29	UP 20.37
Composite	1,484.83	UP 40.98

NO. OF ADVANCES: 73; NO. OF DECLINES: 6; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 26; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 105; NO. OF TRADES: 4,242

CURRENCIES

May 11, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.134173	1.000000	50.6240
Japan	Yen	0.009247	0.008153	0.4127
United Kingdom	Pound	1.613020	1.422200	71.9975
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145418	0.128215	6.4908
Switzerland	Franc	0.651000	0.573987	29.0575
Canada	Dollar	0.735187	0.648214	32.8152
Singapore	Dollar	0.624545	0.550661	27.8767
Australia	Dollar	0.594648	0.524301	26.5422
Bahrain	Dinar	3.008575	2.652661	134.2883
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302438	0.266660	13.4994
Brunei	Dollar	0.620445	0.547046	27.6937
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000102	0.000090	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.024948	0.021997	1.1136
UAE	Dirham	0.308828	0.272294	13.7846
Korea	Won	0.000869	0.000766	0.0388
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.881700	44.6352
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.450806	22.8216
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134414	6.8046
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.400098	20.2546
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064076	3.2438
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021857	1.1065
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000455	0.0230
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148291	7.5071
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004398	0.2226
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005299	0.2683
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.021857	1.1065
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.119528	56.6750

FIRST FOUR MONTHS

DBP doubles profits to P646M

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines nearly doubled its net income for the first four months of the year to P646 million from P329 million in the same period last year.

The substantial profit growth was attributed to good collections, small non-performing loans and higher interest rate spreads.

DBP president Remedios Macalincag, however, predicted that the bank's profit growth would slow down the rest of the year as interest rates have been on a downtrend, thus, resulting in lower spreads for the bank.

The DBP was counting on the fresh infusion of some $500 million from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation to shore up its financial reserves.

The DBP earlier projected a net income of P1.6 billion this year, assuming that the JBIC loan would be released.

The DBP negotiated for the $500-million loan under the Jexim 5 program to help bankroll its wholesale and retail banking operations.

The terms of the loan were expected to be the same as those under Jexim 4, with interest rates pegged at 5.8 percent per annum and a tenor of eight years.

"There are many loans waiting for guarantees from the national government and we are in line," she said.

The finance department and the National Economic Development Authority are currently evaluating the projects and loans seeking sovereign guarantees.

The DBP has P15 billion worth of projects waiting to be financed under the Jexim 5 program. These include cyberparks at Bonifacio Global City and Filinvest.

Another project under study was the second phase of the $183 million Local Government Unit Urban Water project.

Meanwhile, Macalincag noted that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' new circular requiring higher loan-loss provisions on substandard loans would eat into the bank's earnings this year.

SMC-AYALA DEAL

Top officials of San Miguel Corp. and Ayala Corp. sign the definitive agreement for SMC's purchase of the Ayala's 94-percent holdings in Pure Foods Corp. Concluding the deal are (left to right) Ayala Corp. president and co vice chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, chair Jaime Zobel de Ayala, SMC chair and CEO Eduardo M. Cojuangco Jr. and Ramon S. Ang, SMC vice chair.

SEC to decide NSC's fate by end-May

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is set to decide by the end of the month whether to lease the facilities of ailing National Steel Corp. or go ahead with the liquidation of its assets.

SEC chair Lilia Bautista said the SEC was just waiting for the submission of a lease proposal from a foreign group on May 23 before it makes its fateful decision.

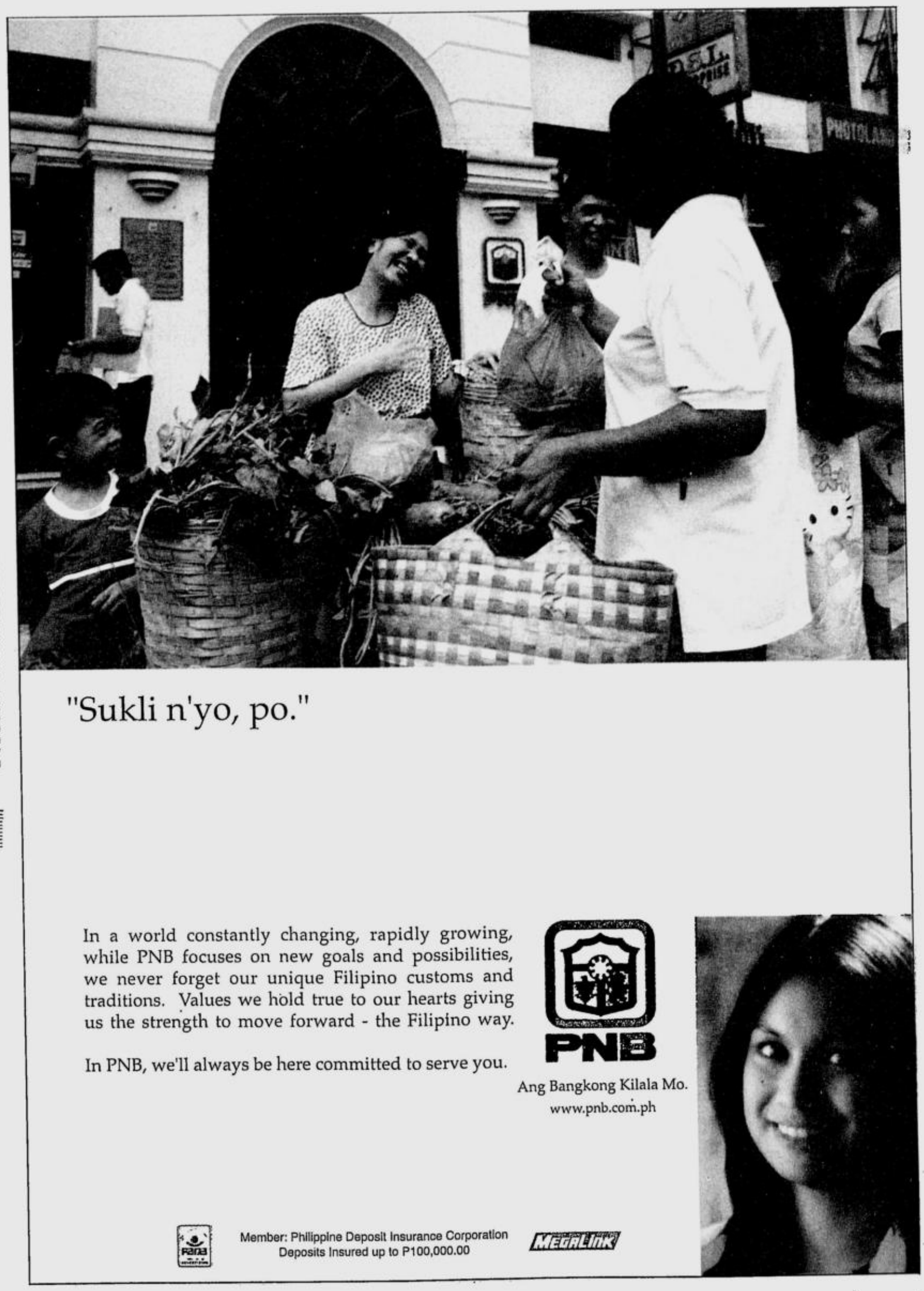
If the SEC decides to allow the lease, the liquidation plan may be junked.

At present, only Allengoal Steel Trading and Fabrication Co. has submitted a proposal to lease facilities of NSC in Iligan. It has also expressed plans to rehabilitate NSC's Iligan plant at no immediate cost to the debt-ridden steel company.

Bautista disclosed that the International Exchange Bank has committed to extend a P450-million loan to Allengoal.

According to its proposal, Allengoal would lease the Iligan plant for P17.8 million per month but would pre-terminate the lease contract once an agreement to buy out NSC was forged between the debt-ridden steel firm and an interested long-term buyer.

Elena R. Torrijos



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MEGALINK

Japan CA surplus shrinks

TOKYO—High oil prices and a steady increase in cheap imports from Asia helped to shrink Japan's current account surplus for a second straight year in fiscal 2000/01, the Ministry of Finance said yesterday.

While export growth has been dampened by a global economic slowdown, imports rose even as the economy remained in the doldrums, with increasingly competitive markets forcing companies to rely more on low-cost goods from abroad, it said.

"More than half the decrease in the trade surplus can be explained by a rise in oil prices," an official told reporters. "But you can see that imports from Asia have increased and it is probably indicative of structural changes in Japan's trade patterns."

He said the influx of Asian imports likely reflected a tendency among Japanese companies to move production abroad in the 1990s because of the strong yen, as well as the general competitiveness of products made in Asia. *Reuters*

Fed expected to deliver another interest rate cut

WASHINGTON—The Federal Reserve is expected to administer yet another dose of its anti-recession medicine—interest rate cuts—to try to boost the ailing US economy.

But some analysts said Fed policymakers might think about taking a pause in their rate-reduction campaign, possibly following any action they might take this week or after the next meeting on June 26 to 27.

"I think the chances are better than 50-50 that we'll get another 50-basis-point (1/2 point) cut in interest rates on Tuesday," said Lyle Gramley, a consulting economist at Mortgage Bankers Association and a former Fed governor.

But he added, "We're approaching a period in which the Fed is going to go more slowly as it pushes the accelerator on the economy."

The Fed is expected to announce the outcome of its upcoming meeting at around 2:15 p.m. on Tuesday (2:15 a.m., Wednesday in Manila).

In four moves this year totaling 50 basis points each, the Fed has hacked 2 percentage points off the federal funds rate, the benchmark for short-term US interest rates. The rate, which governs overnight loans between banks, now stands at 4.5 percent, down from 6.5 percent at the beginning of the year.

The pace of the rate cuts has been extremely rapid by historical standards. Further underscoring the concern about the economy, Fed Chair Alan Greenspan has twice taken the rare step of lowering rates outside regular meetings of the policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee.

He did so on Jan. 3 and, more recently, on April 18.

A survey by Reuters taken on Friday showed that 24 of the 25 banks and investment firms that trade directly with the Fed predicted a 50-basis-point cut on Tuesday. One dealer thought the central bank would reduce the rate by only 25 basis points.

Even though a large majority of economists project a half-point cut, some seeds of doubt about the size of the move were sewn by a government report on Friday that showed a bigger-than-expected rise in retail sales in April.

The Commerce Department said sales at retail stores grew a hefty 0.8 percent last month, rebounding from declines of 0.4 percent in March and 0.2 percent in February.

But some economists played down the significance of the April report.

"The Fed is looking at declines in employment. They will look at the retail sales number and see a bounce after abysmal numbers in March and February," said Richard Berner, chief US economist at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter in New York.

The US economy, while fragile, has yet to record any contraction in gross domestic product, which is significant since a recession is loosely defined as two straight quarters of shrinking GDP.

In fact, according to preliminary estimates from the Commerce Department, it grew at a better-than-expected annual rate of 2 percent in the first quarter, a figure that private economists said could be revised down a bit based on the soft February and March retail sales numbers. *Reuters*

IPO flow picks up, lifting market

NEW YORK—Wall Street's largest electronic brokerage, an energy-related company and an optical switches maker will debut this week as the market for new stock offerings picks up pace following its recent dry spell.

"We're seeing maybe a return to good health in the IPO market," said Kathleen Smith, a portfolio manager with the $50-million Renaissance Capital IPO Plus Fund, based in Greenwich, Connecticut.

The market for initial public offerings was hit hard by the slump in technology issues, but is enjoying a mild recovery on the back of successful energy offerings and April's stronger stock market performance. Seven companies have gone public since the stock market hit fresh two-year lows on April 4, and these deals were well-received and racked up sizable gains.

Leading the calendar in size this week is Instinet Group Inc., the agency brokerage unit of global news and information provider Reuters Group Plc. Instinet, which was founded in 1969, runs an electronic communications network—an alternative trading system that matches buyers with sellers electronically—that accounted for 15 percent of the Nasdaq stock market's volume in the first quarter.

Instinet, which was acquired by Reuters in 1987, aims to raise around $400 million in the first stock offering by an ECN. The company's IPO performance and future earnings are intricately linked to the stock market, experts said.

"If you believe that trading volumes are going to pick up—and historically they've grown faster than the equity market rise—then this company stands to gain," Smith said.

An offering by Global Power Equipment Group Inc., one of the largest makers of equipment for gas turbine power plants, follows a recent string of energy-related IPOs. Energy has been the market's hottest sector because of looming power shortages across the nation.

Tellium Inc., a maker of optical switches used to speed up data transmissions, is seen as a test of investor interest in one of last year's booming sectors—fiber optics. The market has soured on these stocks as telecommunications companies have cut back on equipment spending.

Investors are also looking ahead to some multibillion-dollar new stock offerings, including Kraft Foods Inc.'s potential $8.7 billion IPO in mid-June. *Reuters*

World's poorest plan way out of poverty

BRUSSELS, Belgium—A UN conference on how to lift the world's most destitute out of crushing poverty and to the global mainstream was opening Monday with promises of solidarity from rich nations and proposals to make better use of aid, trade and private investment.

Joining leaders from the poorest countries on the first day of the week-long gathering were UN Secretary-general Kofi Annan and French President Jacques Chirac, who decried the "growing inequalities" between people and nations as a "fundamental injustice."

Despite decades of global growth and development aid, the number of countries classified by the United Nations as "least developed"—meaning per capita income of less than $900 a year and scarce investment in health, nutrition and education—has risen to 49 from 25 in 1971.

More than half the 630 million people in those countries live on less than a dollar a day.

"It is more and more self-evident that the duty of solidarity has become the political and moral imperative of our time," Chirac said in a speech to be delivered to the assembled leaders. "The international community has no right to just write off 600 million human beings."

Most of the poorest countries are in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, but they also include Haiti and Pacific Island states.

While the conference aims to get the United States, Japan and the 15-nation European Union to increase their aid budgets, impoverished countries are also looking to pry open access to rich export markets for their goods, and a real commitment to debt relief.

The head of the US Agency for International Development, Andrew Natsios, said all involved had to move to more "practical" solutions. "Good intentions are not enough," he said from Washington ahead of the conference.

German Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul said European and other countries must open their markets to products from the poorest countries.

"The conference must send signals for more fairness, above all in the trade policy of the industrialized countries," she said Sunday. "The poorer developing countries must get the chance to shake off their role in world trade as mere providers of raw materials."

In his prepared speech, Chirac said other countries should "take inspiration" from the EU's move this year to open up its markets to almost all goods from the world's poorest countries, except arms.

The deal passed, however, only after France managed to win a postponement of up to eight years for the most sensitive products—bananas, sugar and rice—it gets from its own tropical regions and former colonies, drawing fire from humanitarian agencies.

"Poverty and insecurity drive drug production and the proliferation of organized crime and illegal immigration networks," he said. "The struggle for survival accelerates deterioration of soil, depletion of water resources, deforestation and pillaging of natural resources."

He said a system set up by the Group of Eight industrialized countries to relieve the debt burden for some of the world's poorest was "well under way" and proposed the World Bank provide grants to finance some social spending in the countries to prevent a return to indebtedness.

He called for increasing foreign aid, better coordination and mobilizing private sector initiatives, but also chided recipients, reminding them of the need for them to demonstrate "responsibility and determination" to act as well.

Democracy, peace, rule of law and market-oriented economies were vital for progress, he added.

"The international community cannot assist corrupt, oppressive and predatory regimes," Chirac said. *AP*

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MEGALINK

Survey names Oracle as top data provider

REDWOOD SHORES, California—Oracle Corp., the largest provider of software for electronic business, has announced an independent survey published by Morgan Stanley showing Oracle as the preferred database provider among top information technology executives.

More than 50 percent of the 225 chief information officers surveyed in March 2001 cited Oracle as their preferred database vendor.

Microsoft SQL Server was chosen by 24 percent of the respondents. IBM DB2 was chosen by 19 percent of the respondents.

These results were consistent with findings from previous chief information officer surveys conducted by Morgan Stanley, which also cited plans to reduce dependencies on mainframe systems.

According to the report, "Morgan Stanley CIO Survey Series: Release 2.2," Oracle continues to show signs of strong leadership in the database market among CIOs who are most familiar with today's databases."

The report also indicates that while chief information officers plan to continue monitoring the slowing economy closely, database software is unlikely to be cut during the economic slowdown.

In contrast, consulting was the number one information technology budget most likely to be cut.

This signals the growing importance for independent software vendors to offer more complete and easy-to-implement solutions, rather than solutions that rely heavily on consulting services.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late JOSE C. RECIO JR. was extrajudicially settled thru self adjudication by his heir as per Doc. #28 Page #7 Book #1 series of 2001 of Notary Public LILIA PILAVES-DE VERA of Quezon City
(PDI-May 15,22 & 29,2001)

INQUIRER RiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

'Top' candidate

The world's most persistent political aspirant has been John "The Engineer" Turmel, 50, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Since 1979, the independent candidate has competed in – and lost – 54 straight elections at municipal, provincial and federal levels. He has taken on some big names in Canadian politics over the years, including Brian Mulroney, Joe Clark and Sheila Copps. Observers credit Turmel's massive ego and boisterous persistence for his perennially unsuccessful political career.

For the Record. Probably the least popular Filipino political candidate ever was Praxedes Floro, who ran as an independent in the 1965 presidential polls won by Ferdinand Marcos. Floro got all of one (1) vote in the official tally.

Ooops! Graffiti is the English word for those inscriptions, slogans, or drawings scratched or scribbled on a wall, etc. in a public place, often toilets. Graffiti is a plural noun; the singular is graffito. Hence, to say, "Graffiti is the most common form of juvenile vandalism" is incorrect. Incidentally, officials of ancient Rome had an effectively way of discouraging citizens from scrawling graffiti in public toilets. They painted pictures and symbols of the gods on the walls, making their defacement not merely a civil but a religious offense punishable by death.

WORD WATCH

Kumag : slang for "lazy person or parasite," from the Tagalog *kumag*, "a mite or small insect."

PDI – May 15, 2001

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ATTY. JUVENCIO MONTALES NARITO

(Retired Provincial Fiscal of Marinduque)

Peacefully joined his Creator on May 14, 2001 at the age of 74.

His loving wife **CONCHA**; children **ELLA** and **MAYDA**; sons-in-law **BOBBY** and **EDWIN**; grandchildren **GABRIEL MARTIN, MIGUEL FRANCIS** and **MARIA FRANCESCA**; his brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Bonc Cemetery at a date to be announced later.

ERRATUM

The obituary ad of the late Genoveva Adriano published in this paper, dated May 13 and 14, 2001, the middle name should be **Genoveva Fernando Adriano** instead of Genoveva Fernardo Adriano.

Our apologies.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the SPirit a a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Cor. 5:4-5

PAZ MOTA Y ENRIQUEZ

May 5, 1914 – May 14, 2001

Her bereaved brother **Antonio**; sister **Socorro M. Cruz**; sisters-in-law **Magdalena** and **Elvira**; nephews and nieces and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Magallanes Memorial Chapels, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 16, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church.

PEDRO JOSE BARTOLOME, Col., PAF (Ret.)

31 January 1915 – 12 May 2001

Philippine Military Academy Class 1940; Philippine Army Air Corps Flying School Class 41-A (Zablan Field); Fighter Pilot, PAAC 7th Sch. Sqdn. Advance Flying School Group (Cabanatuan, N.E.); Asst. Adj. Group 8 of Sub-group III, POW Camp, Capas, Tarlac, 1942; "Ablan's Guerillas" core group forming the reorganized Ilocos Norte Regiment, 15th Inf. Bn., 1944: GHQ USAFIP NL (Luna, La Union) 1945

Passed on in the Grace of our Lord at the Philippine Heart Center following a lingering illness.

The bereaved spouse **Ret. Justice Florellana E. Castro-Bartolome, CA**; children **Bart Jr. & Annie A. Serrano, Rebecca** and **Bigoy Ledesma (†), Fred/Alex & Olive R. Ubaldo,** and **Baybee Florellana**; grandchildren **Mark** and **Jude Ledesma, Kuku, Kristine, Kim, Ken** and **Kyle**, with other relatives and friends request pious readers to join in a little prayer for his eternal repose.

The remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels (Chapel O), Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

Please Omit flowers. Contributions and donations to the Haven of Peace Foundation will be greatly appreciated.

HECTOR DE SANTOS MORENO

*Peacefully returned to his Creator and joined his beloved wife **Nena** on Monday, May 14, 2001 at the age of 87.*

His bereaved children **Bobby** (†) & **Alma, Jodie** & **Lita, Tootsie** & **Nando** (†), **Joey** & **Tess, Candy** & **Manfred, Mickey** & **Cherie**, and **Jackie** & **Raffy**; his grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his home at 37 Big Horseshoe Drive, Horseshoe Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

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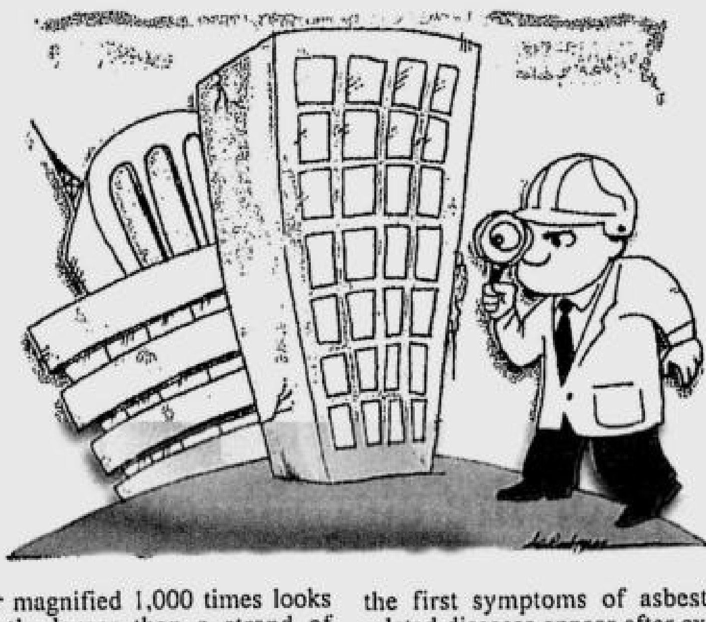
REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

ASBESTOS THREAT

Inspection of old gov't buildings, commercial establishments urged

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR



THE CRACKED ceiling above your head or the walls your working table has been leaning on for years could seal the fate of your lungs or intestine.

Old government buildings, commercial establishments such as movie houses, industrial and residential structures built in the '60s to the '80s could contain asbestos. Cracked asbestos ceilings and walls could release very fine asbestos fibers and dust in the air and once inhaled these could stick to the linings of lungs and intestines and cause the swelling of tissues and the growth of malignant cells. This was revealed by Arturo Boy Nuera, a researcher of the Philippine project study of the International Federation of Building and Wood Workers on asbestos use in the country.

Harder to trace

Sadly, the Philippines, the federation said, doesn't keep an inventory of buildings containing asbestos in its structures. Thus, the damage that asbestos may have wrought is harder to trace. The international organization, through its Philippine project office, has appealed to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to start inspecting old government buildings immediately.

Asbestos is being used in construction materials because of its fire-resistant quality. As explained by Nuera, asbestos is the name for a group of "naturally occurring silicate minerals that can be separated into fibers or microscopic dust particles." He described that a single asbestos fiber magnified 1,000 times looks slightly larger than a strand of human hair.

"The fiber's chief physical properties," he explained, "are its durability and resistance to heat and fire or combustion. The fibers are long, thin and flexible that can be woven into cloth, like those of firemen's suits," he said.

Dangers of exposure

The findings further added that because such materials in buildings are already deteriorating at present, many occupants now face the dangers of exposure to deadly asbestos dust or fiber. Other materials heavily dependent on asbestos are tiles, pipes, insulation and acoustic boards and the clutch and brake systems of vehicles, said Nuera.

Nuera disclosed that the latency period—the length of time—before the first symptoms of asbestos-related diseases appear after exposure is "very long"—between 10 and 30 years. He added that it is, thus, understandable for people to take a casual attitude on this matter.

The ill-effects of asbestos dust have been documented and adequately proven by numerous studies in the past, Nuera stressed.

Nuera added that apart from occupants of asbestos-containing buildings, construction workers, machine shop laborers and workers who had directly installed these asbestos materials are likewise in danger of contracting diseases.

There are about 1.5 million construction workers in the country. No exact figure can be determined how many of these workers have directly dealt with asbestos, or for how long.

Low awareness level

There are reportedly six manufacturers in the country heavily dependent on asbestos, said Nuera. Asbestos use is regulated in the United States, Canada and Japan, and is banned in many parts of Europe. But the demand in asbestos materials is still strong, said Nuera. Because of the strict rules in developed countries in the west and in Europe, there has been a shift in the manufacture and production of asbestos materials to Asia. Nuera reveals 60 to 70 percent of asbestos import products in the Philippines now come from Asian countries.

"The awareness level of Asian governments is low when it comes to occupational health and safety. Asian countries' primary concern is how to encourage investment, never mind health and safety. That's why I was not surprised when I saw the data that our importation of finished products using asbestos came from Indonesia, Korea, China and Malaysia," said Nuera.

The Philippine project study on asbestos further explained that since the first medical diagnosis in England in 1906 linking one's death from asbestos exposure, it took 80 years before an international body, the International Labor Organization, to issue ILO Convention No. 162. ILO 162 bans certain types of asbestos and regulates, monitors and controls the extraction, handling and production of asbestos minerals and other products with asbestos content. ILO 162 warned governments and trade unions on the hazardous effects to health and the occupational diseases acquired from asbestos exposure.

NEW BORACAY RESORT OPENS

The Sun Village, the newest boutique resort in Boracay Island, Aklan, recently opened in time for the peak holiday season to give both local and foreign travelers a welcome respite in the country's premiere destination. Located on a hilltop in Barrio Manoc-Manoc, the Sun Village has 12 fully air-conditioned and well-appointed rooms, each fitted with a private toilet and bath. Sumptuous Filipino and Asian dishes may be sampled at the adjoining SunCafé, while an impressive collection of Oriental art pieces adorns the place.

ReHaus foresees better times ahead

REHAUS Inc., the one-stop real estate network, expects better real estate selling condition in the days ahead.

After going through the rough and tumble in the industry that started during the 1997 Asian-wide economic crisis, ReHaus considers the recent political uncertainties that facilitated the rather peaceful change of government as the last straw in the economically painful sojourn that the country has to go through.

Encouraging signs

As reported from ReHausers on the beat, the signs are encouraging as people start to express interest anew in the industry. While the market has naturally become more competitive due to the increased level of buyers' knowledge of the industry and their maturity, sales figures in the first quarter of 2001 have shown a remarkable upward trend as condominium and townhouse projects, especially in the Roxas Boulevard area and Manila, start to pick up. And the challenge today for all players in the industry is to beat each other for the most coveted buyers' choice by offering only the best property they could have.

To this challenge, ReHaus has stood up gallantly. Now on its 10-year existence (ReHaus celebrated its last month), ReHaus has gone through, survived and come out stronger from the bad and difficult times the industry has to encounter. Throughout this period, ReHaus has learned to adapt to the different circumstances and the market's evolving demands.

Best properties

Banking on its experience, ReHaus was able to convince and counsel developers of the present and future needs and preferences of buyers to come up with the best properties perfectly suited for the market. Thus, environment-friendly, garden-type condominium and townhouse designs characterize almost all ReHaus projects at the present.

Another example is the provisions for more parking spaces in both condominium and townhouse units. From the traditional one-parking slot per unit, ReHaus projects offer at least three slots.

Survival, success

Foresight and sensitivity to clients spell ReHaus' survival and success. And for this, ReHaus has earned its deserved niche. It has grown to be one of the leading names in the real estate industry today.

Noted for its quality, high-end condominium and townhouse units, ReHaus' present inventory includes high-rise condominiums such as CityPlaza Tower, Imperial Sky Garden, Fortune Palace, all in Binondo, and Bay Gardens, a Residential Garden in Metropolitan Park, and Embassy Pointe Tower in the Roxas Boulevard area. Townhouse projects include those in Quezon City, San Juan and New Manila such as the 108 Dapitan Homes, New Jersey Townhomes and Montgomery Place, an Ayala Land community. Linkup with noted developers has been established, giving ReHaus clientele a wide array of choice properties.

Apart from marketing and sales, ReHaus offers prospective developers and property owners professional real estate services that include project consultancy, planning and development, marketing and sales management consultancy and documentation.

GSIS house design tilt semifinalists known

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System house design contest dubbed "You Design, We Build" recently reached fever pitch as entries were short-listed to 37 semifinalists or 21 percent of a total of 177 entries.

GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia said the winning house designs will be adopted as the standard house plans of their low-cost housing program.

Categories

The contest has four categories according to value. These are category A—house worth P150,000; category B—house worth P250,000; category C—house worth P350,000; and category D—house worth P450,000. Three designs in each of the four categories will be judged winners and will get P150,000 each on May 17.

Semifinalists in category A are Benjamin S. Marasigan, Avelino A. Pastor, Vicente L. Daulong, Geraldine R. Matabang, Monette R. Peraz, Ligaya Namocatcat and Michael T. Ibasco

Category B semifinalists are Avelino A. Pastor, Jose A. Veloso, Reformado Architects, Winston B. Ano, Edgardo G. Buenobra, EF Florentino & EC Florentino & Associates. Robert L. Lelina and Abner T. Mangui-ob.

In category C, the semifinalists are Nicandro Santiago, Avelino A. Pastor, Rommel A. Domingo, Josephine H. Custodio, Reformado Architects, Arnulfo S. Lascunia, Antonio D. Rodriguez, Eduardo A. Babon, Roberto L. Tayson and Percy A. Eugenio.

Category D semifinalists are Eli T. Beltran Architects, Alvin Adrian P. Sopoco, Jonathan T. More, Marcos de Guzman Jr. Architecture Network, Joseph A. Prestousa, Philippine Ecopanel Inc., Arnulfo S. Lascunia, Gaspar A. de Guzman, Michael T. Ibasco, Eric C. Suarez, Romeo M. Quicio, Roberto L. Tayson, Angelo G. Martinez and San Antonio Housing System & Technologies Inc.

Requirements

The 37 semifinalists are required to submit the following on or before May 15:

- Drawings of the entries' perspective, front, back and side elevations, two sections, complete floor plan with details.
- Foundation plan with details
- Roof and framing plan with details
- Ceiling plan
- Electrical and lighting plans with details
- Plumbing and sanitary plans with details (septic tank included)
- Bathroom and kitchen details
- Schedule and details of door and windows
- Bill of materials

Final judging of entries is set on May 17. Awarding rites will be held during the 64th anniversary celebration of the GSIS on May 31.

The contest's board of judges is composed of prominent figures in the housing industry and such sectors as the government service, the academe, construction, architects' associations, real estate developers, sociologists and environmental planners.

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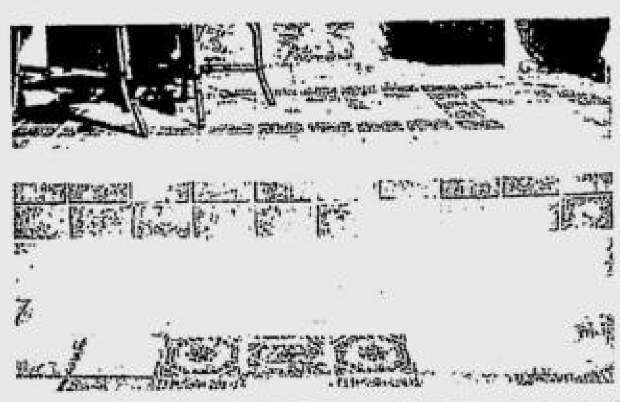

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2 housing bodies mull measures to cut land costs for urban poor

THE HOUSING and Urban Development Coordinating Council has directed the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. to adopt measures to assure that informal settlers get bargain or "below-market" prices for their tenanted lands being acquired through financing under the government's community mortgage program (CMP).

Secretary Michael T. Defensor, presidential housing adviser and chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council issued the directive following consultations with accredited civil society organizations participating as CMP loan originators and with community associations of urban poor aimed at facilitating the grant of low-cost home financing to the informal settlers.

Continuing need

Defensor, who also chairs the board of directors of the NHMFC, also said that following the first 100 days of the Macapagal administration, there is continuing need to safeguard the urban poor home financing program from possible land speculators, unscrupulous loan originators and community association officers as well as spurious beneficiaries to protect the integrity of the program and the interest of bona fide beneficiaries.

In a report to Defensor, lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president and administrator of the CMP under the Macapagal administration, said he has ordered the conduct of a thorough evaluation of the CMP lending guidelines and processes to plug any loopholes in the program.

Measures

Among the measures being undertaken by the NHMFC are the strict implementation of the policy of granting loans for the purchase of land based on property values not exceeding the zonal valuations set by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The NHMFC is also undertaking background and social investigation of informal settlers' projects before these are considered for financing to assure the authenticity of beneficiaries as well as undertake initial valuation of the land to be financed, Salud informed.

The agency is also adopting stricter guidelines to weed out unscrupulous loan originators and bogus beneficiaries, he added.

SITE INSPECTION

Earth+Style president and CEO Vic H. Manarang, 4th from left, oversees the progress on the construction of Villaggio Ignatius, a 54-hectare property situated in Barangay Buenavista I, Gen. Trias, Cavite. Joining him are, from left, Earthlink Realty Corp. president Peter Cadorna, VP for marketing Wal Ming Wong, Earth Exchange president Louie Icasiano, marketing communications manager Grace Ayento, business management team head for home solutions Ferdie Sollman, project engineer Jeselton Dizon and business management team head for Villaggio Ignatius Ruth Apple Hurtado.

New urban center rises in Mabalacat

"LOCATION, location, location!" This has become almost like a mantra to marketing practitioners who admonish that for particular enterprises to succeed or at least get noticed, good location is the key.

Taking a cue from this tried and tested positioning principle, Buena Vista residential development rises on a high ground on Concepcion national road in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Perfect location

Assesses architect Jose Carunungan of Carunungan and Partners Co.: "This is a perfect location because the site is envisioned to become one of the most sought-after middle-income to upper-middle-income developments in the area, what with the opening of major malls and business establishments in the vicinity, and its proximity to the Mabalacat *poblacion*."

The 21-hectare Buena Vista (which literally means good location) is being developed by the Dona Rosana Realty and Development Corp. to serve the demand of the town of Mabalacat and nearby rising urban centers for an upgraded residential development. It is located within 5-kilometer radius to the banks, schools, commercial centers and the Clark Special Economic Zone, and is about an hour and a half drive from the heart of Manila.

The whole area will be future site to at least 700 homes. Buyers will however be given option to buy lots only with the privilege to use the clubhouse facilities.

Self-contained urban center

Says Carunungan: "Traditionally in Pampanga, urban centers grow out of a town plaza where schools, banks and shops are and the residences are on the fringes. This is very Spanish because it's indeed a Spanish heritage. Proof of this is that the names that the towns still carry up to up now are San Fernando, Santa Inez, Angeles, etc.

"But we are slowly changing this by developing Buena Vista that will eventually be self-contained, with the future neighborhood commercial center rising," he adds.

Buena Vista offers future residents three architectural styles—Bianca, Andalusia and Pacifica—which have details showing Spanish influences to maintain the community's identity and ambience. The features of the picturesque two-story homes include lanais, balconies, large windows and intricate grille works.

Describes Carunungan: "The houses boast of features that are evident in age-old Spanish *bahay na bato* (stone houses) and our very own *bahay kubo*—wooden brackets, adobe-like walls, sloping roofs, even the colors—all of which are supported by modern technology building techniques and scientific approaches that promise durability and longevity. The Spanish flavor is retained to give the Pampangueños that old feeling of being home because these designs are readily acceptable and are highly adaptable to the climate."

THE ENTRANCE to Buena Vista

Special emphasis

Also given special emphasis by its designers are the vistas and open areas. Buena Vista's landscaping was laid out starting with an entrance gateway of articulate grille works, undulating walls and lush landscaping with a foundation, a boulevard of palm trees and a strip which is planted with foliage not common in Pampanga. The roadway is designed to promote community living. "The application of design enclaves together with *cul de sacs* provides the subdivision with small community-based neighborhoods," Carunungan adds.

Providing generous roads and open spaces for clubhouse and other leisure amenities, Buena Vista has a 2,000-square-meter clubhouse that features sports courts, swimming pools, function rooms and a picturesque jogging path.

"What we are offering here is the warmth and aura of a cool rural neighborhood. You can even consider it an alternative to urban living, perhaps even a getaway from the noisy life in Metro Manila. We want to provide the residents a feeling of homeliness and splendor not typically found in the area and even in this type of development," Carunungan concludes.

Global online realty appoints CEO for Philippine arm

ELECTRONIC Realty Associates, a US-based real estate sales and services network, has appointed Enrique Soriano III, a seasoned real estate expert, as country president and chief executive officer for Philippine operations.

Soriano, a professor of services marketing at the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and currently pursuing his Ph.D in public administration at the University of the Philippines, was picked to head ERA Philippines with a solid real estate experience and an extensive background in marketing, sales, product packaging and development honed in 14 years in the business.

"ERA Philippines will capitalize on ERA's global presence to gain a strategic position in the Philippine real estate industry," Soriano said.

"The big advantage of franchising is that only 5 percent of franchisees fail within the first five years compared with 75 percent of independently owned businesses," he said. "Property companies have better chances to grow by granting franchise licenses to potential and able investors."

Integration

In a move to establish a strong brand equity in the market, ERA Philippines has integrated innovative business solutions and a unique range of products and services with a local and international network geared to provide total customer satisfaction.

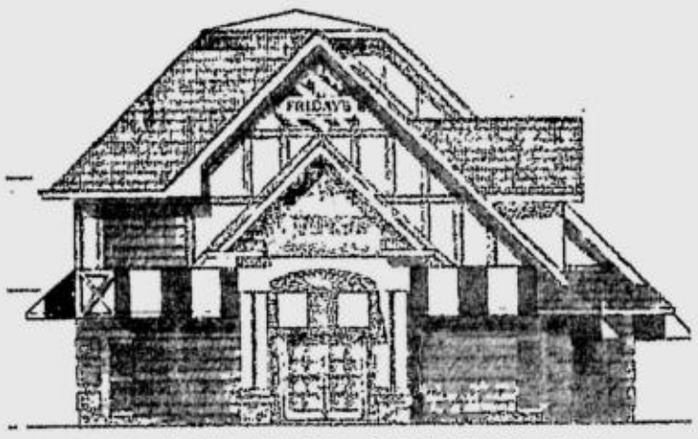
"Presenting prospects with quality products and services is one thing; providing them with professional services backed by cutting-edge marketing systems is another," Soriano said. "In other words, we at ERA don't just sell a good product, we see to it that it is sold by a professional who has gone through a rigid screening and training process."

Professional assistance

ERA's success in the local market will be anchored on "teamwork and shared values"—an independent relationship between parties accepting responsibility for the success of the business, he said.

ERA Philippines is a membership organization that offers its services to licensed real estate brokerage firms. Today, there are independently owned ERA offices in major cities in the country and around the world ready to provide professional assistance in meeting the needs of home and office buyers and sellers.

ERA is a subsidiary of global leader Cendant Corp., a company listed with the New York Stock Exchange. Cendant, the world's largest franchiser of residential real estate brokerage offices, is responsible for more than one out of four homes sold or bought in the United States.



SOON TO OPEN AT STA. LUCIA EAST MALL

This 220-seater restaurant of T.G.I. Friday's will open this month at the Brickroad, Sta. Lucia East Mall. It will have Friday's trademark casual-dining ambiance with its knick-knacks and memorabilia festooned on walls, wooden furniture, striped tablecloths, Tiffany lamps and TV monitors. T.G.I. Friday's Sta. Lucia East is a joint venture between Bistro Holdings Corp. and Sta. Lucia East.

Crown Asia awards top performers

CROWN Asia, the country's leading master-planned community developer, recently recognized its brokers and contractors who were the top performers from January to March this year in ceremonies at the Tivoli Royale in Quezon City.

Called the First Quarter Awards, the ceremony also coincided with a similar presentation night for Crown Asia's newly formed "The 360-Degree Club."

The quarterly honors were bestowed on the following contractors: MNCC Builders, first place; followed by Ramolaza Construction, FIR Builders, Uy Construction and 415 Builders; for excellence in their field.

On the other hand, Almon Realty emerged as top broker for the quarter with Global Apex Professionals and Asia Plus Corp. following closely. The property consultants and sales managers who upped their sales quotas were also given honors.

The "360-Degree Club" program aims to find ways and means to further enhance the efficiency and productivity of employees, sales networks and contractors which would mean added benefits for homebuyers.

Crown Asia's marketing department bagged the Best Department award for the program's employee division.

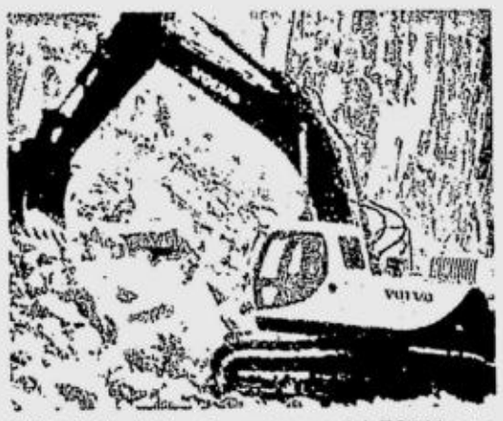
Volvo equipment used in building dam

DOZENS of Volvo equipment—excavators, articulated dump trucks and wheel loaders—are at work in the construction of the US$1.4-billion San Roque Multipurpose Dam in Pangasinan.

Described as one of Southeast Asia's most important dams, the San Roque project was designed to generate electricity, control flooding and provide cleaner water for irrigation. Commissioned by the National Power Corp., the dam is being built by San Roque Power Corp., a consortium of Sithe Energies Group, Marubeni of Japan and Kansai Electric. The main contractor is Raytheon Ebasco Overseas Ltd.

Civic Merchandising Inc., the exclusive Philippine distributor of Volvo construction and mining equipment, has deployed a team of sales and service engineers on site to provide round-the-clock assistance. To date, general contractor Raytheon Ebasco has invested in a fleet of Volvo trucks, and has also leased some machines from Civic Merchandising.

The San Roque Dam is scheduled for commissioning in the fourth quarter of 2002.



THIS is the Volvo Excavator model EC240, one of the four new units recently purchased for the project.

Delta Faucet sponsors plumbers conference

INSTILLING the values of professionalism in the plumbing industry is one of Delta Faucet Co.'s objectives to develop world-class plumbers here in the country. As such, Delta Faucet will be sponsoring the 8th National Master Plumbers Association of the Philippines (Nampap) Luzon conference on May 25-26 at the Crown Peak Garden Hotel and Nature Spa in Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

This year, the company teamed up with Nampap, the country's most prestigious organization for plumbers, architects and engineers, in its annual conference to discuss the impact of globalization on the plumbing industry that poses as a challenge for plumbers to hone their skills to gain a competitive edge in the world market.

In line with the conference's theme "Globalization: A Challenge to the Plumbing Profession," an estimated 100 plumbers, architects and engineers all over Luzon will also undergo Delta Faucet Co.'s plumbers training workshop, which is a series of training modules that will feature the latest plumbing techniques and trends.

The event will be attended by well-respected key figures in the plumbing profession. They are Fortunato H. Amosco, chair of the board of Master Plumbers; Alberto T. Cabael, Nampap national president; engineer Jessie M. Mariano, Nampap national director for Luzon; and Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo, the guest speaker.

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BUSINESS

Maynilad to slap late payment fee

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. will slap a 3-percent late payment penalty on customers who will fail to pay their bills on time beginning April.

"In our latest review of the company's finances, we saw how large were the previous arrears and outstanding balances of customers, which were also depleting us of our needed cash. So this late payment charge would hopefully promote prompt payments," Maynilad vice president for customer services Luis Afable told the INQUIRER Friday.

Afable said the 3-percent late payment penalty would also be imposed on all unpaid arrears incurred before April 2001, subject to a 10-percent value-added tax.

He said Maynilad's concession agreement with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System allowed the implementation of such a penalty.

He said Maynilad was also considering a "rewards scheme" for customers who settle their water bills on time.

The Court of Appeals earlier junked the government's bid to use a $200-million performance bond to cover debts that Maynilad had refused to pay.

The appellate court denied the MWSS' petition to lift an order that prevented it from touching Maynilad's performance bond.

MWSS administrator Jose Mabanta told the INQUIRER the court's ruling meant the national government would have to pay some P2.651 billion in obligations that Maynilad had refused to pay.

Citing "force majeur," Maynilad refused to pay concession fees to the MWSS because of huge losses that it had been incurring since the peso fell steeply against the US dollar.

Maynilad absorbed nearly all of the $800 million that the MWSS owed when it won a contract in 1997 to provide water services to the MWSS' eastern concession zone, which covered Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Taguig and Quezon City.

At the time, the peso was trading strongly at 26 to a dollar. The local currency, however, fell sharply as a result of the 1997-1998 Asian financial crisis, hitting as low as 56 to a dollar. The peso's depreciation virtually doubled Maynilad's debt servicing expenses from P20 billion to P40 billion.

The company said it also suffered losses because of natural and man-made causes, the El Niño, a delay in the completion of the Umiray water project and the 300-million liter per day bulk water project, and Maynilad's discovery that its pipe network was not only 2,500 kilometers long as MWSS had warranted, but 4,000 kilometers.

Some analysts familiar with the issue said, however, the tight fix and financial woes now being experienced by Maynilad could be due to wrong financial assumptions. They said Maynilad offered rates lower than necessary during the bidding for the concessions.

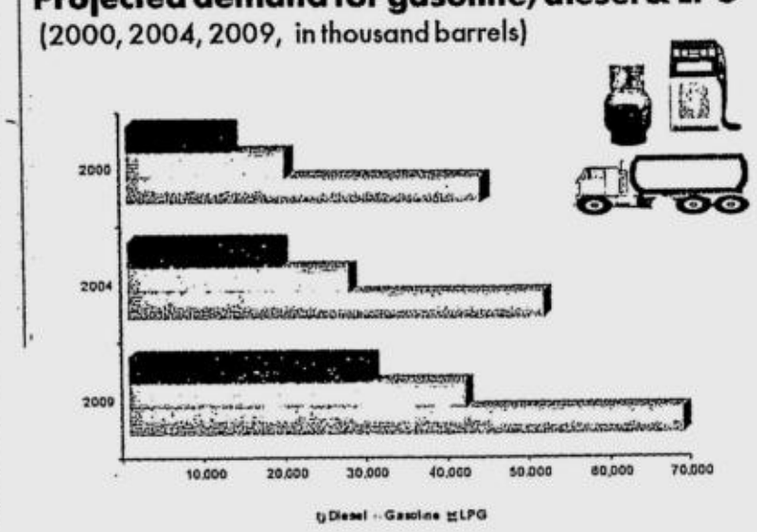
Former Economic Planning Secretary Felipe Medalla said Maynilad used financial assumptions that were no longer applicable. The former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority said the concessionaires apparently used the most optimistic financial scenario.

The Benpres led consortium of Maynilad accounts for Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Taguig and Quezon City.

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Projected demand for gasoline, diesel & LPG
(2000, 2004, 2009, in thousand barrels)



Source: Department of Energy's "Philippine Energy Plan"

DIESEL will continue to be the most in demand petroleum product locally. It accounts for over 30 percent of the country's current petroleum demand. By 2004, demand for diesel is expected to hit 51 million barrels, followed by gasoline, 27 million barrels; and, liquefied petroleum gas, 19 million barrels. By 2009, however, demand for gasoline and LPG is seen outpacing demand for diesel. The country is expected to consume some 41 million barrels of gasoline by 2009, 28 million for LPG, and 68 million for diesel.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Reserves seen rising to $15.9B in 2002

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has reported that the country's gross international reserves will grow only slightly to $15.86 billion next year from this year's $15.09 billion because of a marked slowdown in export growth.

Monetary officials are also predicting a balance of payments surplus of $1.19 billion in 2002 from a projected $70 million in 2001, and a current surplus of $6.6 billion in 2002 from $7.37 billion in 2001.

These numbers were presented to the International Monetary Fund last month.

The central bank also informed the IMF that the Philippines' dollar reserves would rise to $17.47 billion in 2003 and to $19.74 billion in 2004, as exports would grow by 7.4 percent and 14.5 percent during these years.

Philippine exports are expected to take a hit from an economic slowdown in the United States and Japan, the country's two biggest export markets.

The US economy, while fragile, has yet to record any contraction in gross domestic product, which is significant since a recession is loosely defined as two straight quarters of shrinking GDP.

Tokyo, meanwhile, has downgraded its official assessment of the Japanese economy for the fourth straight month on Friday, signaling tough times ahead. It is the worst string of downgrades since the Japanese government lowered its assessment for six consecutive months to February 1998.

Philippine exports are also seen reeling from a slowdown in global demand for electronic products. The country's lead export has been semiconductors, a key ingredient in the production of computers and other electronic goods.

The Bangko Sentral told the IMF Philippine export growth this year would slow down to 4 percent from last year's 8.7 percent, and improve only slightly to 6 percent next year. Imports were seen rising to 9 percent next year from 6 percent this year.

This year's projected $15.09-billion international reserves would just be enough to finance 4.1 months worth of imports.

With the balance of payments posting surpluses, meanwhile, the level of errors and omissions, or net unclassified items, in the BOP table was projected to taper off to a deficit of $2.367 billion next year from $2.498 billion this year and further down to $2.147 billion in 2003 and $1.403 billion in 2004.

Errors and omissions are considered by foreign investors to indicate capital flight.

In reality, according to the central bank, these are exports booked as earnings but have yet to materialize as actual gains in the country's external account position because of delayed payments.

Foreign creditors and investors use international reserves, balance of payments, and current account as key indicators of a country's ability to settle its imports, which are, in turn, used largely by local manufacturers and exporters to produce commodities.

Erring LPG dealers warned

BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said it would summon for a meeting dealers of liquefied petroleum gas being accused of cheating their customers.

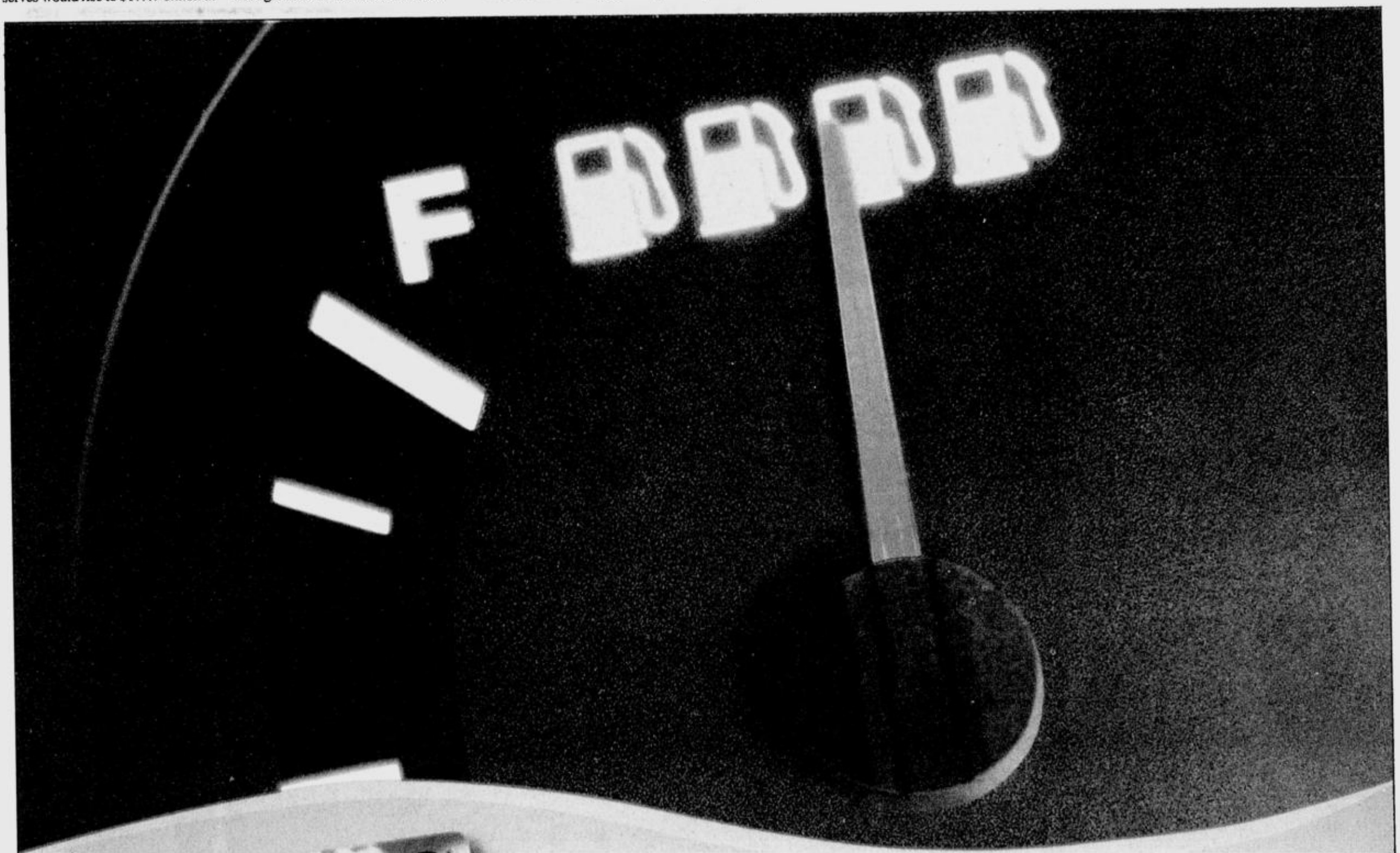
Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters on Friday the energy department would start with at least six dealers who were "on top of the list" of violators.

Camacho revealed that a task force had received about 500 complaints, 327 of which had been resolved.

The most common complaints involved dealers who were not filling to the brim their LPG cylinders or were selling defective cylinders.

"The task force has imposed about P4 million in fines, but only a small fraction of this had been collected," he said.

Camacho said a memorandum of agreement regarding the stronger enforcement of sanctions was ready for signing.



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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

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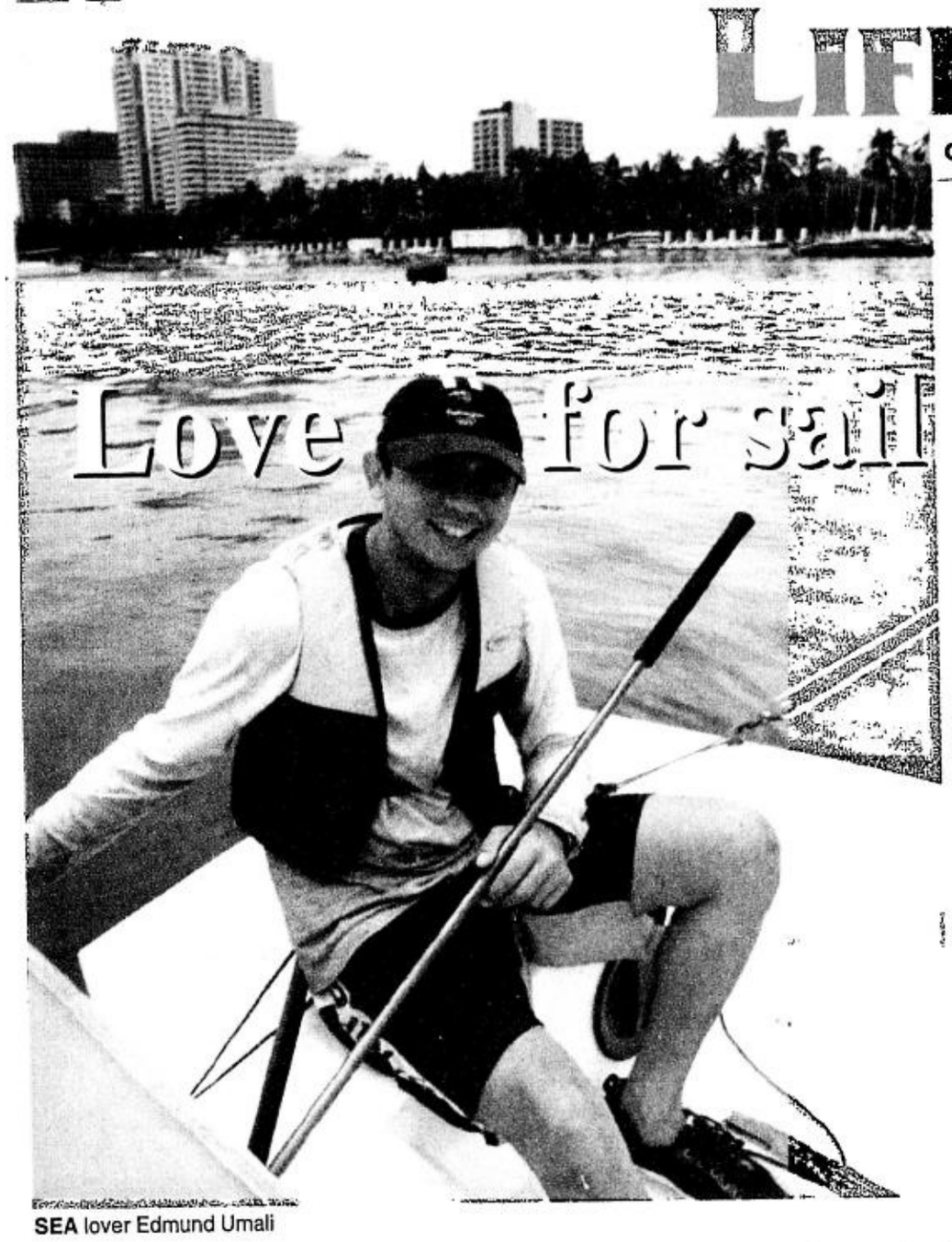
Love for sail



SEA lover Edmund Umali

A workshop on maneuvering, tacking, jibing, going upwind and downwind, even how to get yourself back on the boat after capsizing, can help you get started on the pleasures of boating

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS
PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

ONE of the newer spectator sports that can be enjoyed in many ports across the country is watching beautiful boats under full sail over the horizon. But why sit when you can be a part of it all?

At the Westin Philippine Plaza's park water sailing center, families can discover ways to have fun on the water. Liquid Experience (LQX) and the Philippine Sailing Association (PSA) will conduct sailing lessons for three weekends starting May 19, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The pleasures of boating used to be regarded as only for the affluent. The little seaworthy boat continues to grip the imagination, the vehicle for experiences one can't have ashore. But now, sailing is gaining in popularity.

Those who are passionate about the sport than the experience are buoyed by what only the sea can give them: its changes of mood and color, its fitful supervision by weather and wind, still and balsamic, fierce and noisome at times but always engrossing.

LOVE/ p.C2

Exclusively For Women

MASSAGE YOUR STRESS AWAY

One of the first places signs of stress become apparent is the skin. You can see it in dull, lackluster complexion, a loss of vitality, a gray color, increased sensitivity, scaling and redness, milia and blotchiness. Worse, it can take its toll on your health resulting to tightened muscles, sleepless nights, hypertension, increased allergies and a breakdown in the body's balancing system.

Perk 's exclusive body treatments increase the body's general ability to ward off these negative manifestations.

Perk Detoxification Massage Therapy - facilitates elimination of fats and toxins.
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Call today for your FREE body assessment. All treatments are done in hygienic cubicles by physical therapists and nurses .

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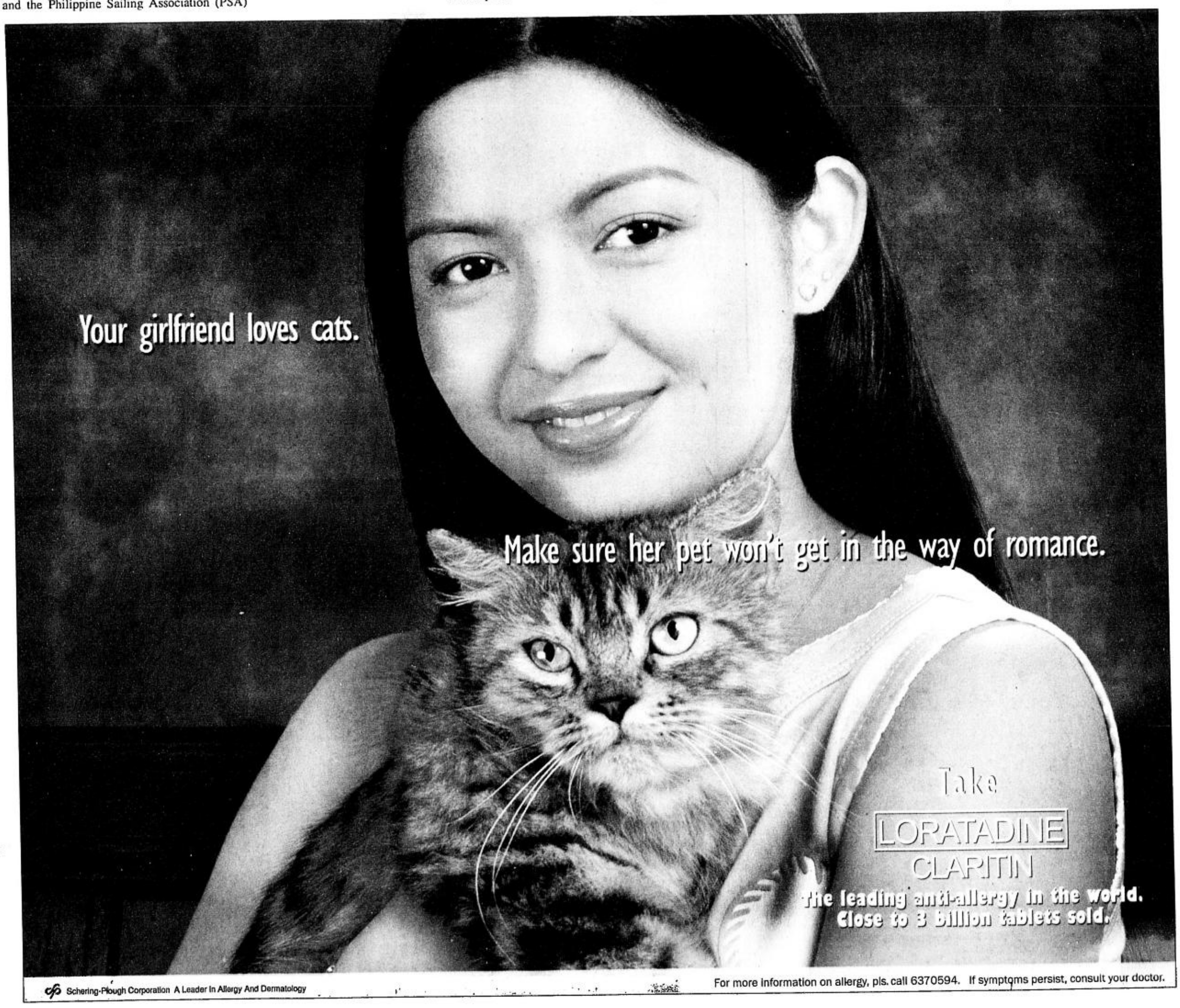
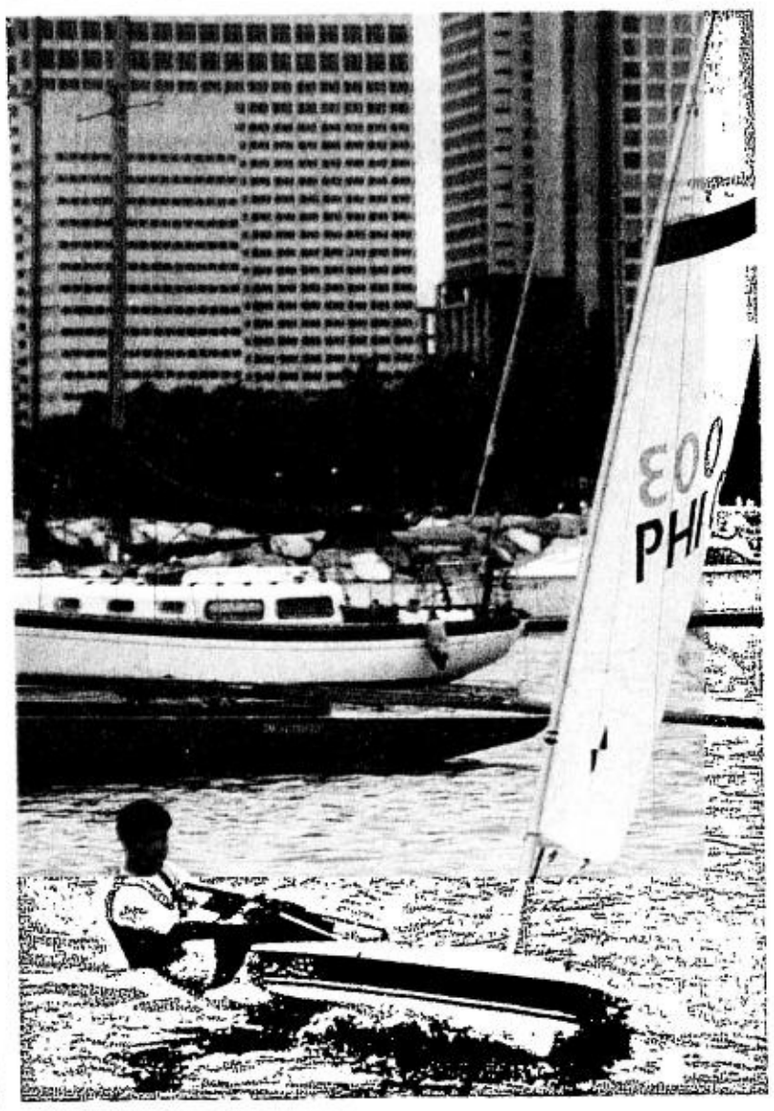
893-1598	637-6504	371-8492	8073-736/836	243-0140
893-2117	637-6506/07	371-8494	807-3791	243-0141



Schering-Plough Corporation A Leader In Allergy And Dermatology

For more information on allergy, pls. call 6370594. If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

STREAKER on a broad reach showing its well-balanced rig configuration



ON AN EVEN keel

HOISTING the main sail

Love for sail

(From page C1)

"Sailing has a certain allure, especially for those who live a sporty lifestyle. You don't have to own a boat to experience it. During our workshop, participants will be provided with the boat and the gear," says Edmund Umali, president of LQX.

A naval architect, Umali founded LQX last year to promote sailing as a sport and help the industry survive the odds, beginning with the workshop. "There are no affordable small boats and no accessible place to many people. There are places to sail but these are only for club members' use or within city limits. It's good for any sailing club to have a venue within city limits. There are no active groups who organize activities, sailing classes or races. There's no one-design fleet in racing so instead of honing the sailor's skills, it becomes a contest of boats," notes Umali.

A proponent of small-boat sailing in the country, LQX is also into boat-building. Through the aid of PSA and Fiberglass Control Tanks, LQX has specialized in building the Streaker. "It has simple and non-imposing features yet it looks sleek. And it's the most affordable sailboat," Edmund explains.

Known in Europe as the forgiving laser, the Streaker is versatile and can accommodate a wide range of crew weight. This sporty single-hander can outrace most of its type and at the same time be very stable on the water. Its generous cockpit can carry a learning sailor at the helm and an instructor forward at the dagger board comfortably.

Fun and safe

While riding the Streaker, participants in Westin's sailing lessons can learn maneuvering, tacking, jibing, going upwind and downwind, drills on capsizing and riding the boat again and man-overboard drills wherein one is taught how to help anyone who falls on the water. Instructors on chase boats will help you get off to a smooth start on the water and make your riding experience fun and safe.

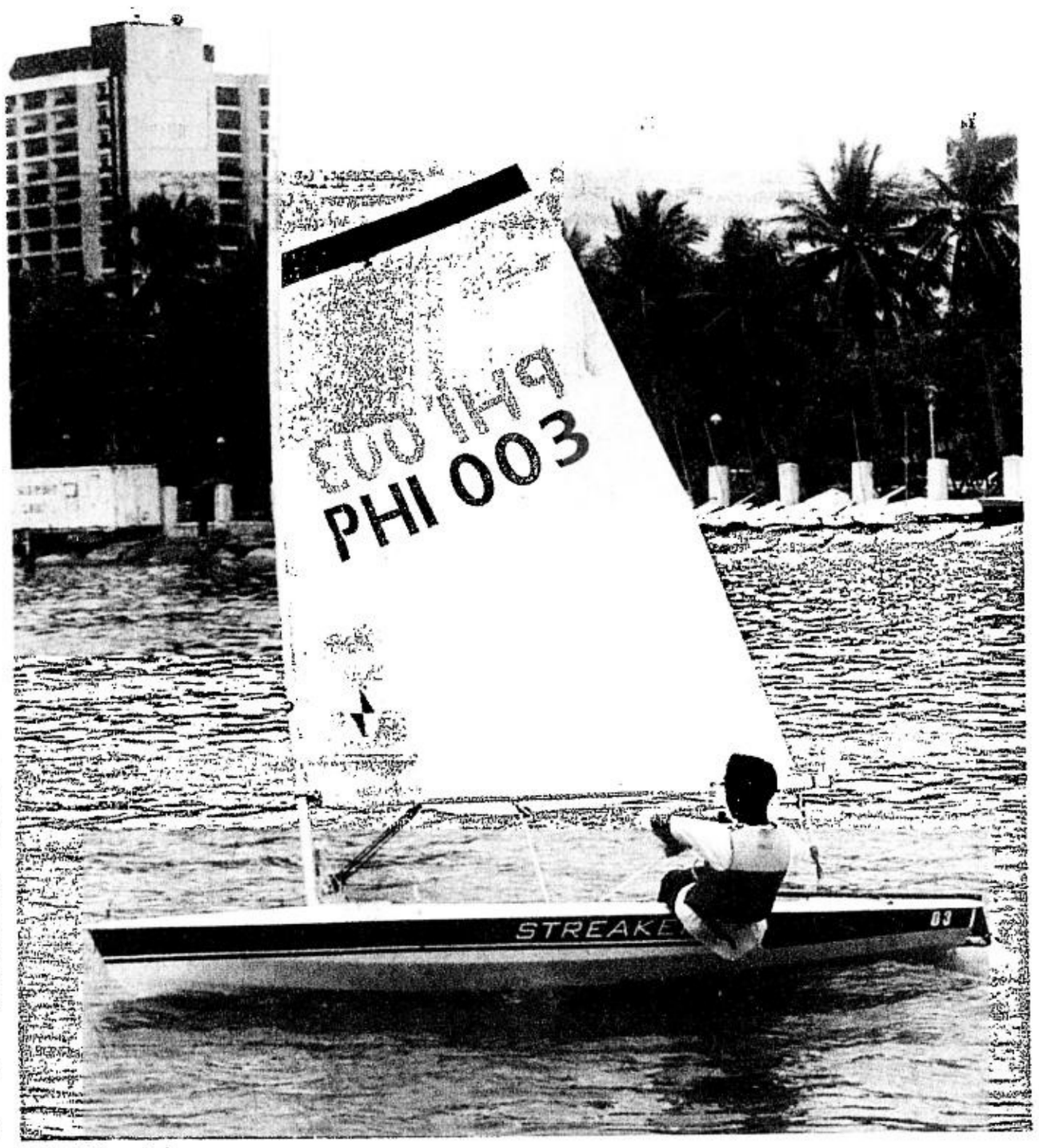
The Streaker that will be used is designed for one-person racing but it can accommodate three. During classes, two can ride on it together with one instructor or only one can go with an instructor. "Those who don't know how to swim can join but we advise them to learn the basics of swimming first. They'll be wearing life vests while on the water but, usually, those who don't know how to swim get panicky once they encounter problems," advises Edmund who started sailing in 1995. Last September, he was invited to be part of the race management team for the sailing event in the Sydney Olympics. In the recently held 11th President's Cup, organized by the Manila Yacht Club, an international yachting event featuring 35-footer sailboats, LQX won first prize in racing/cruising.

"Filipinos have a great chance of winning in the Olympics' sailing event. But one has to qualify first by campaigning or competing in sailing competitions around the globe. You don't have to win in all the regattas but you can earn qualifying points by mere participation. But in order to join the regattas, you need a budget. So, at present, we're trying to make sailing commercially viable and attractive to sponsors and spectators."

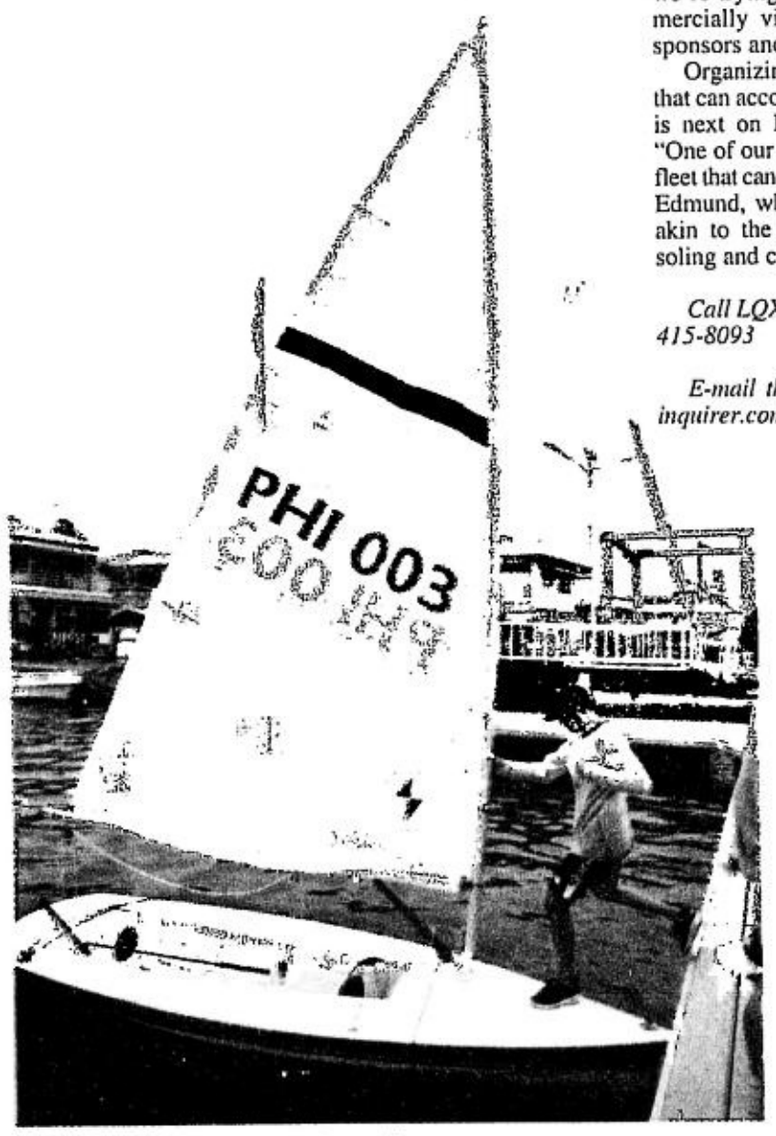
Organizing tours on big sailboats that can accommodate eight persons is next on LQX's drawing board. "One of our dreams is to have a big fleet that can join competitions," says Edmund, whose love for sailing is akin to the sea—fascinating, consoling and challenging.

Call LQX at 916-5446 or (0917) 415-8093

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



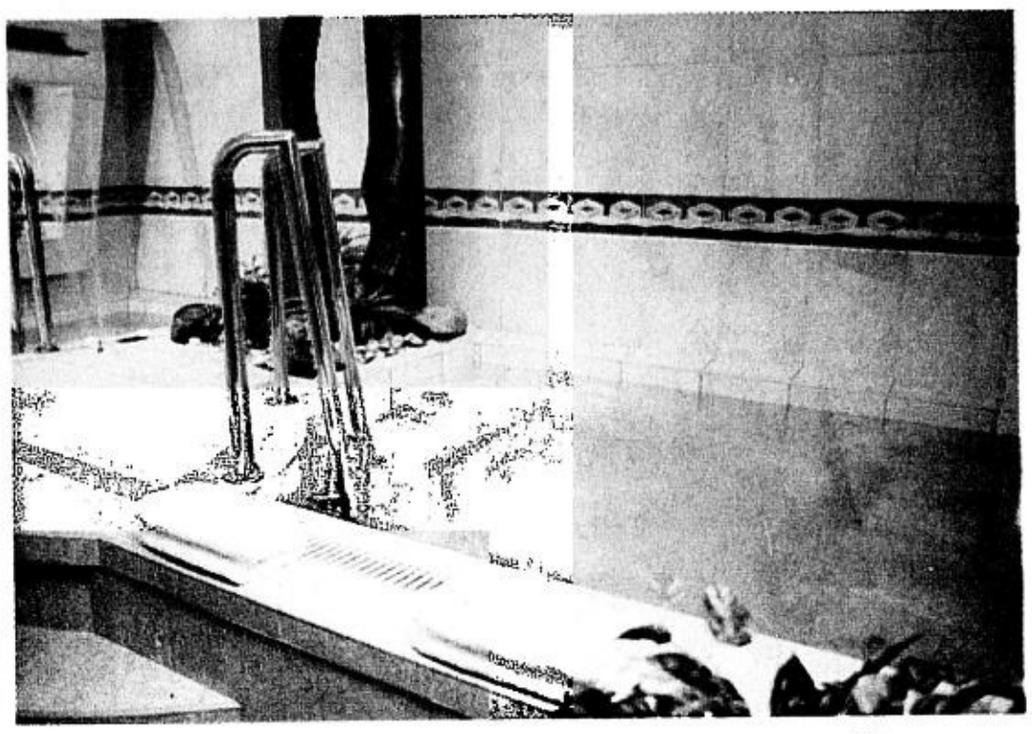
BEATING upwind



TIGHTENING the halyard before sailing

DISASSEMBLING the boat

GETTING the boat off the ramp



The pleasures of a spa special promo

WHAT'S the in thing this summer? Going to a health spa to pamper yourself and delight in the relaxing feeling it gives to your body.

The South Spa has a special treat to all spa enthusiasts. You can get a free massage twice a month! Just avail of the one-year Membership Privilege Card for as low as P12,000 and take all pleasure out of this sweet deal. Not only that, you will also get discounted rates on all types of service and treatment. Plus a free access to all amenities, such as the steam, sauna, Jacuzzi, relaxation lounge as much as you want, all-year-round!

The South Spa is likewise offering gift certificates and prepaid coupons that you can give to your friends or use as corporate gifts to your clients. For a minimum purchase of 10 coupons or gift certificates, you get two extra coupons or GCs for free.

The South Spa is at the G/F Kingswood Tower, Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz Extension, Makati City. Call 895-4029/4420/4782.

Seminar to discuss mainstreaming of children with special needs

A SEMINAR-WORKSHOP on mainstreaming children with special needs in regular classrooms is scheduled to be conducted by University of the Philippines special education professors and expert field practitioners on May 21-23 at the Benitez theater of the UP College of Education in Diliman, QC.

Titled "From Segregation to Integration," the seminar-workshop is open to all special education and regular teachers and school administrators, parents, support-service givers such as psychologists and physical, occupational and speech therapists.

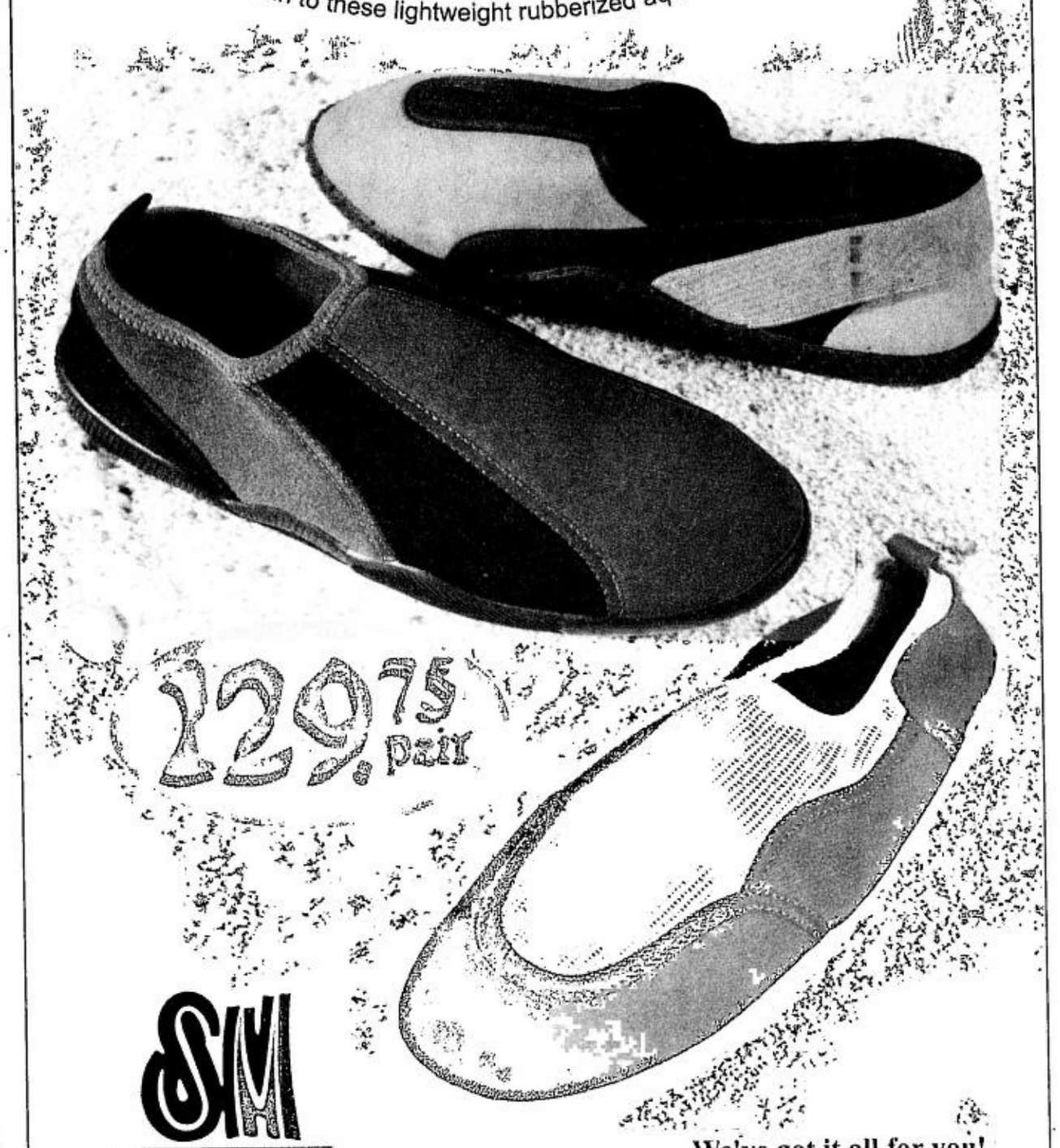
Leading the team of lecturers is Dr. Edilberto I. Dizon, professor of special education and practicing SPED diagnostician-counselor.

Attendance to the seminar-workshop is by reservation. The fee of P2,500 includes lunch, snacks and a handbook of the lectures. Reservation fee is P500.

Call the UP Special Education area at 920-5301 local 6955 or St. Luke's Medical Center at725-8195.

At the Teens' Shoes Department

just add water
and a lot of fun to these lightweight rubberized aqua slip-ons



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Are you buying or playing?

SHOPPING entertainment has created a consumer demand for concept stores that make the shopping experience as pleasurable as possible for the entire family.

Toby's Sports Arena, at the third level of Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, is the first and largest interactive sports superstore in the country, simulating the experience of being inside a major sports venue with various interactive zones such as a basketball "Shootout" court, a billiards "Showdown," and web kiosks for virtual sports games and Internet surfing.

These features, according to Toby P. Claudio, Toby's Sports Arena operations manager, answer the need for entertainment for the whole family who want to spend their time wisely.

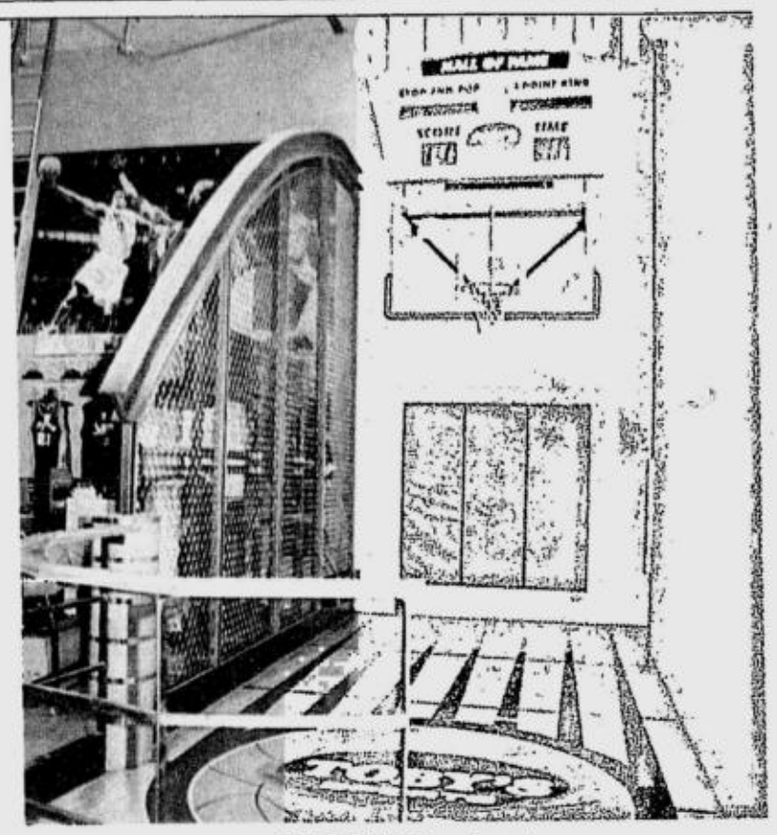
The 800-square-meter store is designed as a sleek arena environment, with a track oval, a wrap-around shoe wall approximating a locker room, a mezzanine area like a stylized bleachers section. A huge 3 x 18 m mural of a "cheering crowd" greets visitors as they enter, as well as an imposing nine-bank video wall and a 30-ft high ceiling with a grid of gym lights complete the stadium look and feel.

BROWSING the Net

Toby's Sports Arena features the country's first interactive basketball shooting game. Called the Toby's Shootout, it allows the customer to play two games—Stop and Pop and Three Point King—on an authentic hardcourt with a professional glass ring and board. Players' names can be digitally displayed among the best shooters in the country, including the best PBA professionals. Every month, Toby's will give special prizes to players with the best scores.

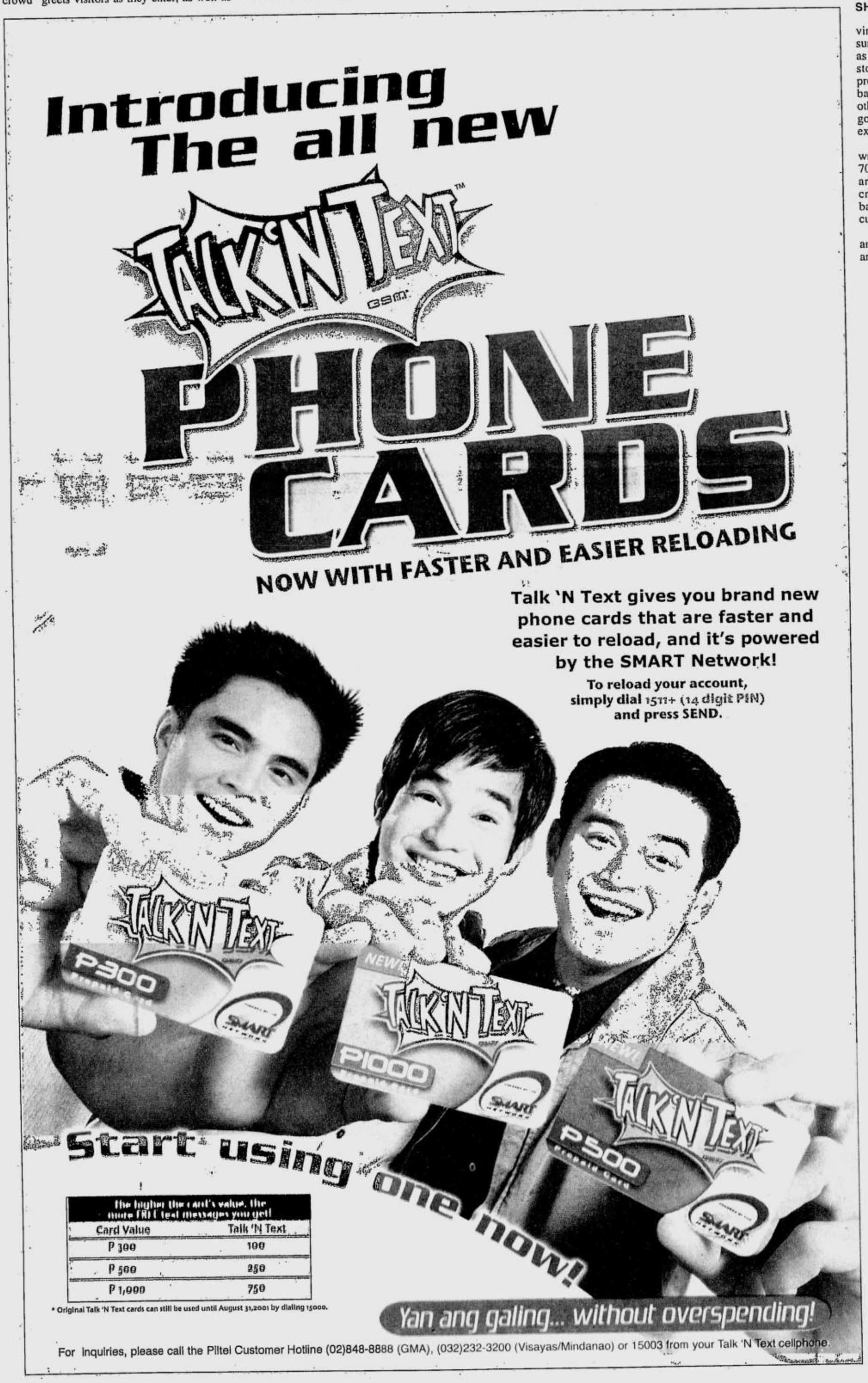
The Billiards "Showdown" lets a customer try out any of the cue sticks on sale at the arena and allows him to compete in a game to finish the last five balls on a billiard table in the fastest time possible. Those with the fastest time each month will be given special prizes.

Internet/Game Stations allow customers to browse the newly redesigned Toby's website, www.tobys.com and link with different brands' websites or favorite sports sites (espn.com, nba.com, pba.com.ph, etc.), or play the latest virtual sports games. The new Toby's site offers surfers access to product specifications, as well as product reviews, sports tips and news and store announcements such as sales, special promos, and new arrivals. Avid gamers can play basketball, soccer, tennis, baseball, among others, and they can even wear virtual reality goggles for a truly engaging three-dimensional experience.


SHOOTOUT hardcourt

The arena also boasts a commanding wrap-around Shoe Wall in the middle, with over 700 of the latest styles in athletic footwear, arranged by category-basketball, running, crosstraining, golf, hiking, tennis, football, baseball, sandals, casual, kids, etc. for the customer's convenience.

There's also a special corner for women's and children's apparel that features a kid's play area.



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Card Value	Talk 'N Text
P 300	100
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* Original Talk 'N Text cards can still be used until August 31,2001 by dialing 15000.

THE CAPTAIN. Alvin Patrimonio checks out the "Maalaala Mo Kaya" photo gallery, one of the hottest features of the PBA Time out at SM Supermalls' exhibits in SM Megamall.

Top hoopsters take five with fans

SOME of the country's top basketball officials, team managers, and players recently gathered at the SM Megamall to launch the Philippine Basketball Association's PBA Time-Out at the SM Supermalls promotion.

Fans had a field day with the some of the league's hotshots: Alvin Patrimonio of Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, Rudy Hatfield of Pop Cola, Danny Ildefonso of San Miguel, Mick Pennissi of Red Bull, Michael Hrabak of Shell, and Bal David of Barangay Ginebra. The team spirit was alive and well with the presence of Alaska Aces Ritchie Ticson, Bryan Gahol and Noy Castillo, as well as Tanduay Rum Masters Jeffrey Cariaso, Bong Hawkins, Zaldy Realubit, Wynne Arboleda, Chris Cantogos, and Condor Hontiveros.

Currently ongoing until June 10 at all SM Malls, PBA Time-Out at the SM Supermalls has fun and exciting exhibits and activities for all basketball and sports enthusiasts.

Shop for a month of fun and fitness

TO PROMOTE sports and good health, especially among kids during the summer season and beyond, a series of sporting events is held in line with Robinsons Supermarket's month-long Health Consciousness Campaign that began April 16.

Milo continues to hold special registration for its summer Sports Clinic at Robinsons Supermarket. Avail of a corresponding discount for a sports course of your choice upon purchase of any Milo product.

For sports enthusiasts, watch different sports featured weekly in the activity area of Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila and Robinsons Place Imus as Robinsons Supermarket holds the Sports Clinic Demo, a once-a-week activity that aims to encourage

SHOP / p.C5

CAMPING needs and whims

Be well-equipped before you go outdoors

THE RIGHT equipment for hikers, mountain climbers, campers and other outdoors enthusiasts are now available locally.

The Eureka tent, for instance, has a Storm Shield feature that makes it tough enough to withstand the constant pounding brought by storms and wind. The tent is easy to set up and features key benefits for safety and comfort like factory-sealed floor seams for superior weather protection, a self-supporting framework that flexes to absorb and deflect stress from strong winds and water loads. It also has convenient features like mesh storage pockets, flashlight loops and clothesline rings.

The cold, hard ground shouldn't keep you from dozing off in comfort, especially if you have Cascade Designs Therm-a-rest. Its soft, warm feel makes for a truly restful sleep in any outdoor location. Cascade Designs also makes other gears like hydration packs, walking sticks, pack towels and seal lines to make sure you don't lose a step wherever you trek.

Suunto compasses are the most reliable, rugged precision outdoor instrument. Bratpack also has a wide range of Geld and marine compasses.

Coughlan's, a company with 40 years of experience behind it, has been responsible for a number of mini-biners, waterproof matches, utility bags, lightsticks, sportsman's hammock, bota bag, tube tent and pegs for campers.

Getting back to nature is more fun when you can enjoy it in comfort so don't let trifling details like the weight of your bags put a damper on your experience. Cerro Torre technical packs can be adjusted to fit the torso length perfectly and its Micro Fit Suspension System evenly distributes every load. You can also try the technical packs offered by Camp Trails as these are extremely durable and constructed to let you properly organize your gear.

Camelbak hydration packs allow for hands-free access to water and keeps it cool for hours, truly perfect for almost any outdoor activity. Backpacker's Pantry presents dishes that not only satisfy your palate but your nutritional needs as well. Each product has undergone freeze-drying and dehydration methods that reduces the food's weight and greatly prolongs its shelf life.

For other camping essentials, you can rely on Wild Country and Sterling. Wild Country products like karabiners, rope controls, harnesses, slings and daisy chains constantly feature the best materials and designs to match and enhance any climbing activity. Sterling ropes meanwhile have superior ropes and cords to keep the climber safe and secure.

Get these at Toby's Arena Makati, Olympic World Alabang, Rustan's Tower and at Bratpatk outlets located at SM City Annex, SM Southmall, SM Manila, SM Pampanga, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Galleria and Robinsons Bacolod.

Shop for a month of fun and fitness

(From page C4)

kids to love sports and get involved in the fun-filled activities.

To promote health, partners Robinsons Supermarket and Carnation have launched a campaign on bone care by giving free bone scan to customers who purchase Carnation Calcium Plus from Robinsons Supermarket.

And to wrap up the series, Robinsons Supermarket makes May 26 a red-letter day with a sportsfest to be held at the Ateneo Grade School Covered Courts. Team games, mascots, product samplings and a parade of the competing teams will liven up the day.

Enjoy smart shopping fun at Robinsons Supermarket. Registration is until May 16. Present a P300-worth of purchase of the promo's sponsors' products.

This is used to kill whale sharks.

This can be used to save them.

The Inquirer joins the World Wildlife Fund in the fight to save rare animals. From now on you'll be reading more and learning more about the plight of endangered species. In our crusade to save the world, the only weapon we have is your support.

WWF

INQUIRER

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

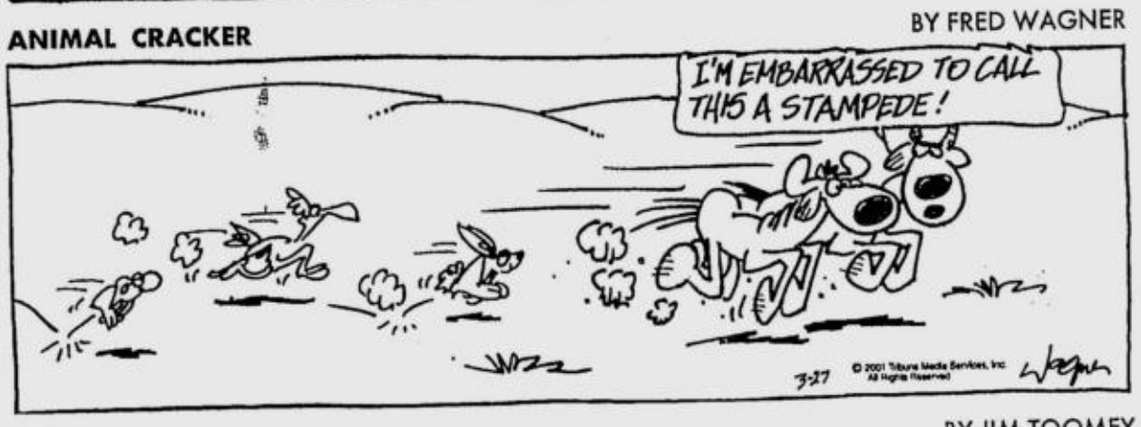
BY MIKE PETERS

A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER



PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY

SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG

BEN

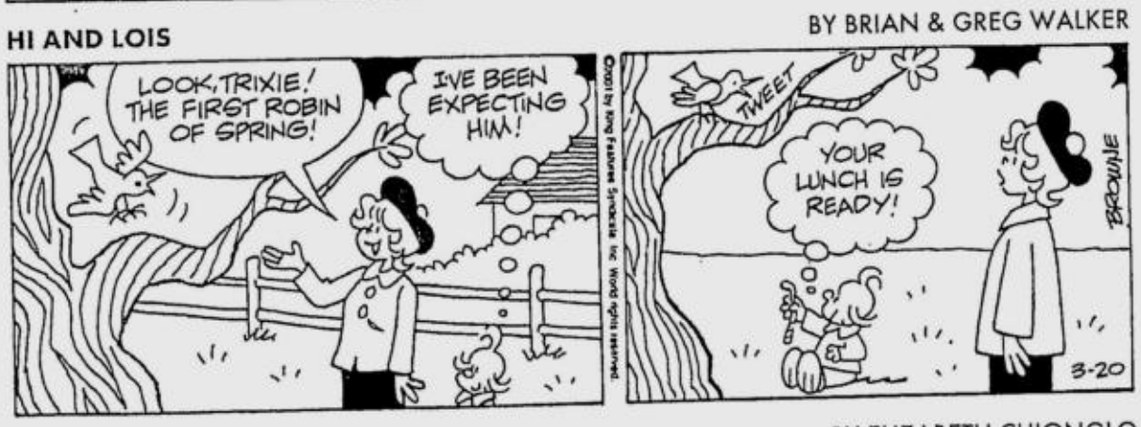
BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eddy Arnold, Eric Burdon, Trini Lopez, Brian Eno, Lainie Kazan, Emmit Smith

Happy Birthday: Drastic changes may leave you feeling a little unnerved this year. If you let your creative side take over and you are willing to accept the inevitable, you will find the end result to your liking and to your advantage. If you believe in yourself and in the possibilities offered to you, success will follow. Your numbers: 1, 13, 18, 29, 33, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your emotions run deep. Warmth and compassion will go out to those less fortunate than you. Do what you can to strengthen your personal partnership.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Interaction with other people will be necessary to satisfy your insatiable need to communicate and learn. The individuals you meet will spark enthusiasm and new ideas in you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't even bother trying to stretch the truth. You can accomplish more if you stick to your own work and avoid the trivial chatter going on around you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to spread your wings and make new friends. Don't let past memories prevent you from pursuing interests that you once enjoyed. It's time to get active

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is your lucky day. You can make some extra cash if you play your cards right. Investment opportunities will turn out to be more favorable than you anticipated. Go for the gold.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You're full of emotional energy. Don't let your mate's negativity exhaust you or provoke you into an unpleasant dispute. Put your energy to good use, and be helpful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful not to step on anyone's toes at work. You'll have to walk a fine line if you want to move in a positive direction. Stick to your own job and don't count on colleagues to pitch in.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take the initiative to do the things you like. Your discipline and hard work will pay off. You'll be able to put an honest effort into self-improvement projects. Take control of your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Social events may take your mind off your troubles, but remember that when the party's over, you'll still have to face the music. Do yourself a favor and deal with the issues once and for all.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect to have problems with friends or relatives who insist on meddling in your affairs. Stop them before they make matters worse. Deal with your personal problems by yourself.

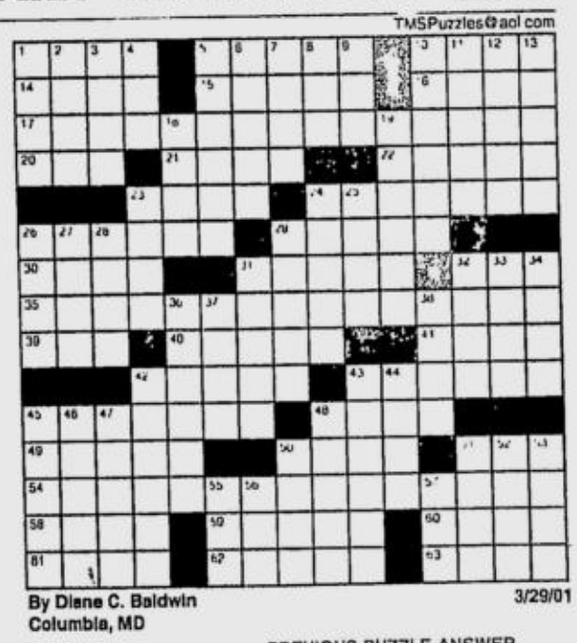
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful whom you do business with. Problems with contracts will leave a sour taste in your mouth. Make sure that you get proposals in writing. This is not the time to be trusting.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Instead of becoming depressed, get busy. You can make those personal changes that you've been thinking about. It's time to spend a little time and money on yourself.

Birthday Baby: You have energy plus. You are always into something and will seek adventure and excitement throughout your life. You are a doer and an achiever who will not give up until you reach your goals.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



ACROSS
1 Act petulant
5 Preliminary version
10 Hibernation spots
14 Egg on
15 Theatrical production
16 Devil's forte
17 Flops
20 Trout lure
21 Had down pat
22 Walked in the surf
23 Perspective
24 Beginners' texts
26 Automatons
29 Serious
30 Milky gem
31 Commandeer
32 Baton Rouge sch.
35 Recovers from a flop
39 One of a Mississippi quartet?
40 Deep gap
41 Chinese poet
42 Voice complaints
43 Raised masses
45 Audio equipment
48 Encryption
49 Tell's missile
50 Feeble
51 Bride's new title
54 Starts up with enthusiasm
58 Cloy
59 Synthetic fabric
60 Diva's number
61 Fusses
62 Denoted
63 Contradict

DOWN
1 Quantity of smoke
2 Spoken
3 Hard on the eyes
4 Part of AT&T
5 Worker bees
6 Extend a subscription
7 Swear
8 Amusing activity
9 Driver's peg
10 Cast aspersions on
11 Sidestep
12 More pleasant
13 Iditarod rides
18 Comic sketch
19 Eames chair feature
23 Electrical unit
24 Rainbow maker
25 Level to the ground
26 Badgered
27 Musical work
28 Deep singer
29 V-formation flyers
31 Loses one's cool
32 Butcher's cut
33 Letters for Nob Hill cops
34 E.T.s' vehicles
36 Threaded fasteners
37 Columbus' state
38 Chimney passage
42 Feels blindly
43 Specific point in time
44 Keatsian poems
45 Spicy sauce
46 Stair part
47 Greek muse
48 Secular law
50 Singer Falana
51 No more than
52 Bridle part
53 Don't leave me
55 Male cat
56 Mine vein
57 Craze

By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

3/29/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	R	C	H		E	L	L	S		G	O	O	S	E
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A	D	I	O	S		B	E	A	U		R	U	H	R
N	I	C	H	E		E	R	N	S		D	R	A	T
S	T	E	L	E		R	O	T	E		Y	E	N	S

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SHOPPING for handmade bags and shawls

A DEMONSTRATION on waste management. This chipping machine can cut through coconuts and tree branches, reducing waste size and making materials for composting.

A many-flavored festival in Tagaytay

THE SUN shone bright and early in Tagaytay on the day of "The Colors and Flavors of Summer" festival. An exhibit of the various food, plants, and arts and crafts that Tagaytay has to offer, the festival was organized by the Patnubay sa Kaunlaran ng Tagaytay Foundation Inc. (PKTFI). It was a charity event as well, since proceeds went to the development of the Ospital ng Tagaytay, which needed to purchase additional medical equipment.

Despite the intense heat that afternoon, families from Manila and neighboring cities in Cavite took time to check out the different stalls and displays. Guests were treated to a healthy and sumptuous meal made from organic produce straight from the farm of Gourmet's Cafe in Silang, where the event took place.

Garden enthusiasts enjoyed choosing from flowering plants offered by farms such as Ging de los Reyes' The Flower Farm Corp., Ming Ramos' Garden Solution and Tagaytay Garden Center. Art enthusiasts took home artworks by budding artists from the Antipolo Thursday Club led by aviator turned painter Lino Severino. On-the-spot portrait sessions with the artists themselves proved to be an added attraction. Other interesting artworks and collectibles were those from Popo San Pascual's Arts, The Museum Curator and Recuerdo's Antiques.

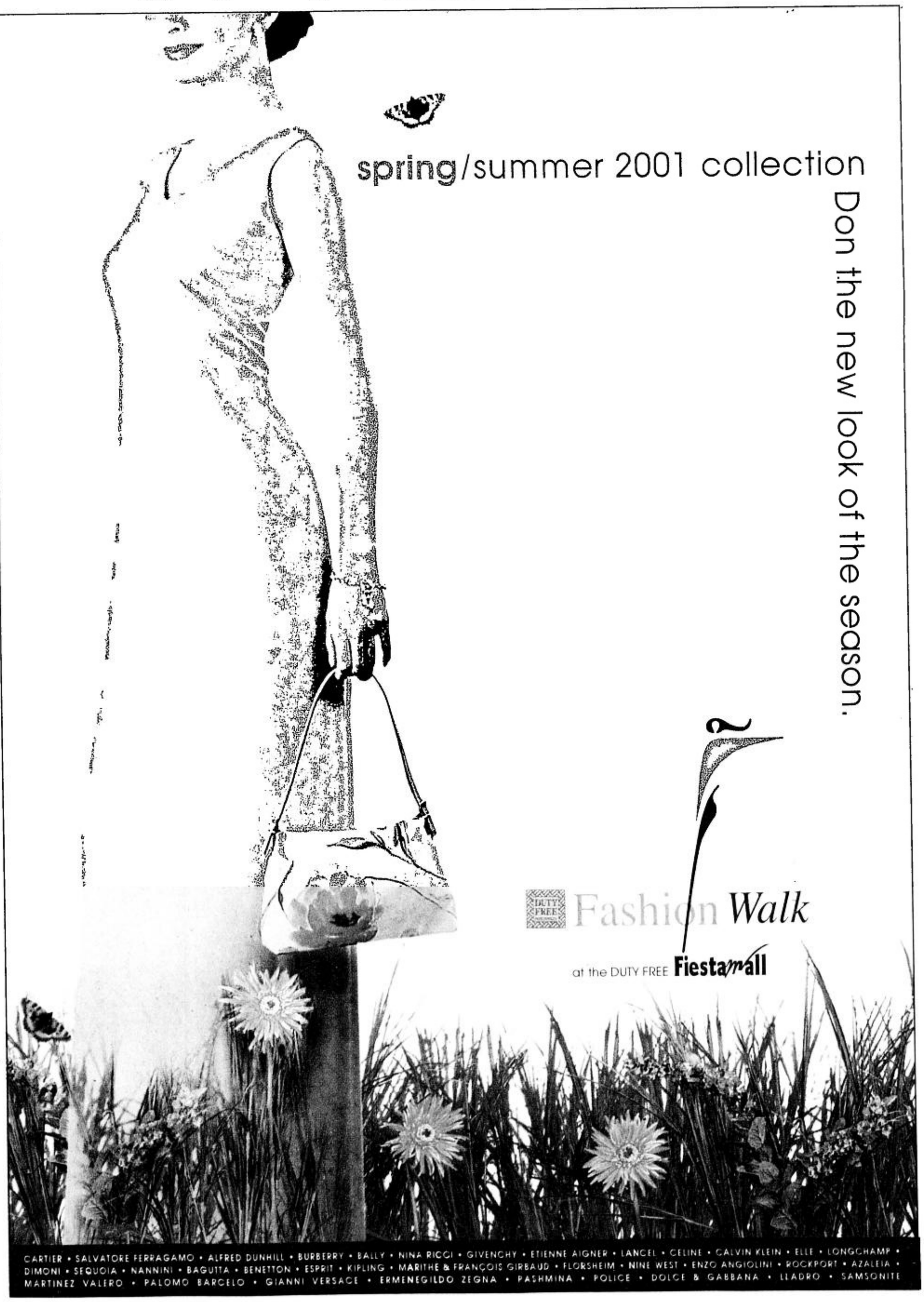
The other items that drew attention were the mushroom-growing kits from Mushroomburger Corp. and the live honeybee display by Ilog Maria Bee Farm, which sold fresh honey, aromatherapeutic scents and candles made of beeswax.

For those who wanted to learn something new, there were brief lectures and demonstrations on holistic healing, waste management, the wonders of bees and worms, and learning how to grow mushrooms. Of course, no one could go home without trying Organic French Chicken and the Good Shepherd Ube Jam. The Tagaytay Tourism Council was also there to help guests learn more about Tagaytay.

Every one left the festival with something either in their arms or in their hearts.

WOVEN hats to beat the heat

POTTED mini gerberas from the Flower Farm Corporation



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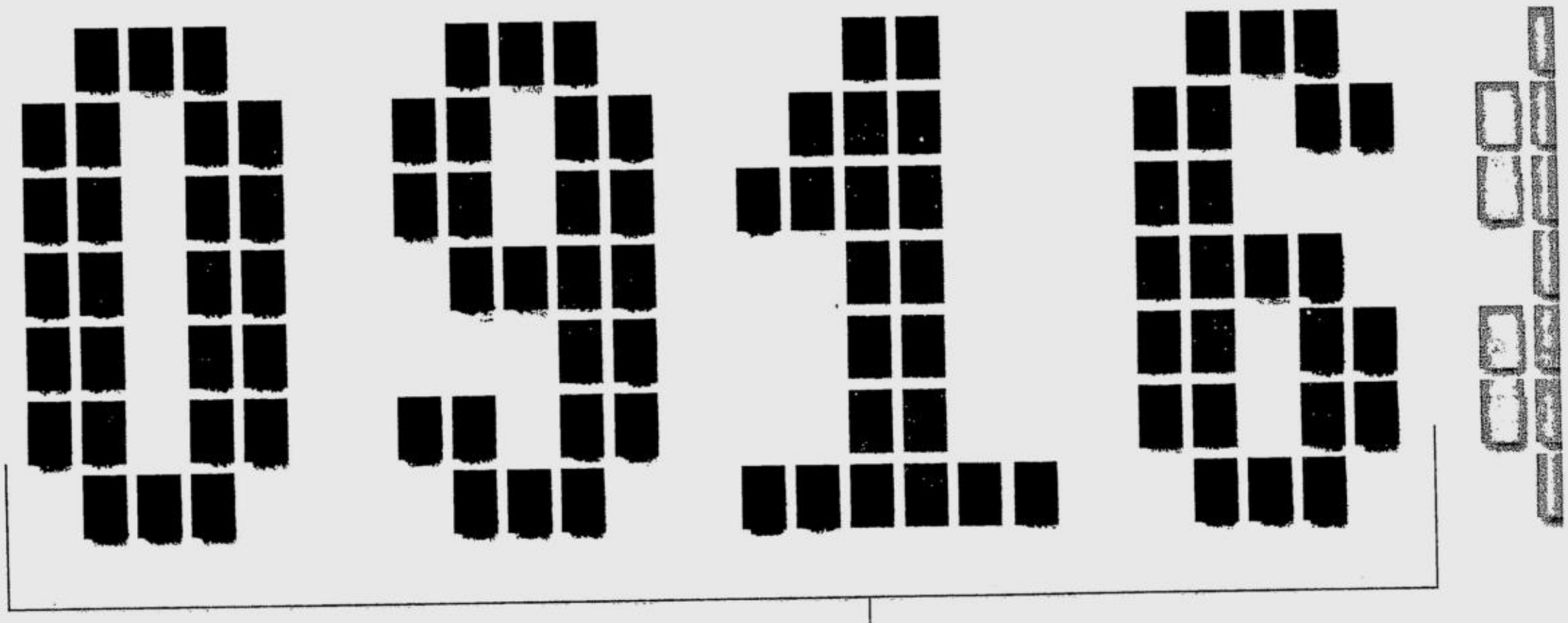

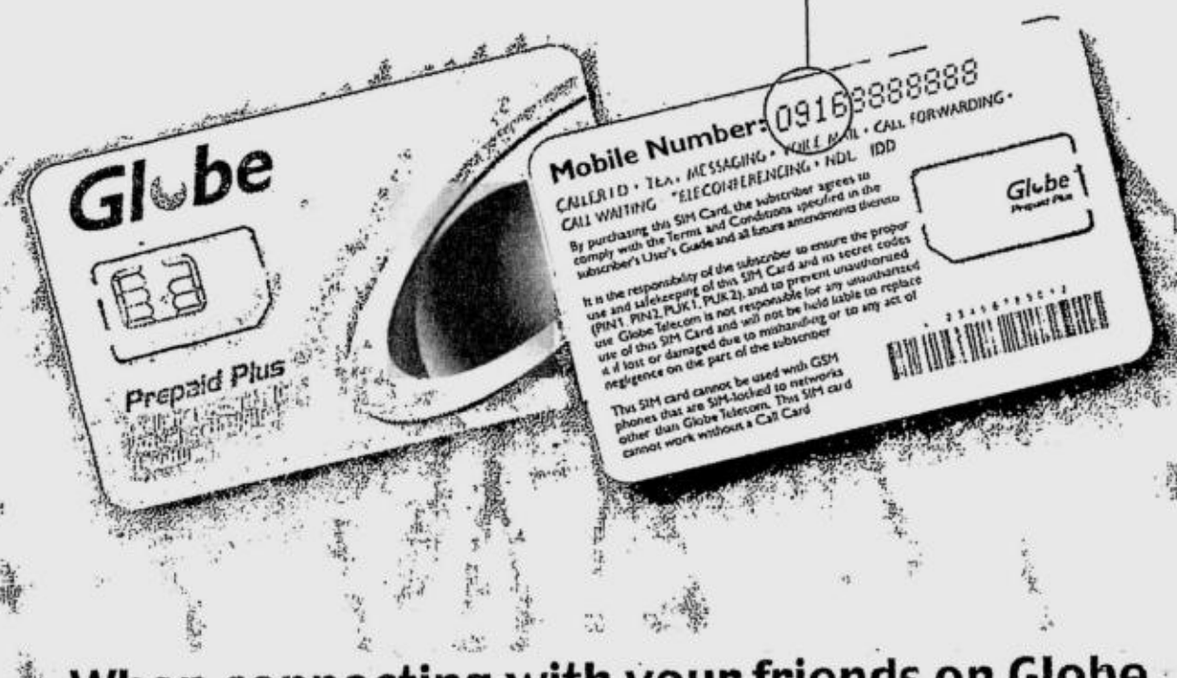

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Life begins at 40; so does talk about HRT

Age doesn't matter, but aging does

BY PENNIE AZARCON DELA CRUZ

I AM, the mirror tells me under certain light conditions, amazingly well preserved for my age (which remains totally my business, thank you). Well, except for the double chin which, mind you, gracefully disappears when I hold my head up just so. But listen to this: Despite the peso bribe for every strand, my son takes forever to find and pluck out a stray white hair or two from my steadfastly black mop. And while I carefully stay off hair gel these days because the stiff spikes give my scalp too much air, my forehead has remained mercifully smooth and narrow. BenGay remains a strange bedfellow and Dulcolax totally unnecessary.

So imagine my chagrin last week when a twentysomething tricycle driver addressed me with, "'*Nay, saan ho tayo*? (Where to, momma?)" What? Did he think I was a child bride? I might have a college-age daughter, but no way could I have birthed anybody over 20. Hah, another drug-crazed bum on the loose!

Well, all right, so he wasn't the only deluded one. Last month when I wanted a trim badly, I ducked into the nearest hair salon in the neighborhood only to be greeted with a solicitous "'*Nay, dito ho tayo,* (Over here, mother)" by the resident hairdresser who, I swear, must have made her fortune when coifed hair was all the rage. Of course, she didn't get a tip.

Even INQUIRER reporters have become unfailingly polite, punctuating their answers with the requisite "*po*" and "*opo*" that would have done their parents proud. Add a little bowing and scraping and I would have felt positively ancient, like an inscrutable Empress Dowager with foot-long nails and parchment-dry skin.

Which reminds me: I should write those Medicard people and suggest a gender- and age-sensitivity session. The last time I had an X-ray, the hair-challenged technician called out, "'*Mi, kayo na po.* (Mommy, it's your turn)."

Could it be my glasses? I nag the hubby. You look just fine, he says, barely lifting his eyes from the TV screen where the young and the restless giggled and jiggled, and were promptly forgiven their callow youth.

Sneaky process

It is sneaky, this aging process, I confide to an officemate. Just when you think you're weathering the years well—no arthritis, no liver spots, hardly any swing in that fleshy upper arm, no fainting spells during taebo—along comes an acquaintance you haven't seen in 10 years and, my God, you whistle under your breathe, but she looks kinda... old. And then, wham! It hits you. She must be thinking exactly the same thing about you, judging from her open mouth, the appraising stare and quickly averted gaze.

Once, while watching the behind-the-scenes cuts on "Almost Famous," I became almost furious. Lies, all lies, I screamed at the screen, where a disgustingly coy anchor had just identified a balding stuffed bun as—gasp!—Peter Frampton, the man choreographing the rocker moves of the actors. But but but but, he was such a babe! Long blonde locks, a wicked smile that melted undies instantly, a long lithe body that defied gravity. You're an alien, a body snatcher! I yelled at the blob on TV and promptly flipped channels. Oh no, here comes James Taylor—or rather, an impostor using his name. Sweet Baby James, how could you? Back in my Jingle days, he had such soulful eyes, abundant hair and angular planes, which all went extremely well with his navel-gazing songs. It was so easy to imagine the thrashing he and that wild vixen Carly Simon must have enjoyed between sets. Now here he is, a half-moon of muff riding around his pate, a full moon for a face, a virtual teletubby. He looks like anybody's kindly grandpa, hardly the heartthrob and handy man of our soaked late-night fantasies.

No wonder middle-aged men shack up with women half their age. After all, they didn't need to look at Whistler's mother at breakfast every morning and be reminded that they, too, are slowly dissolving into a mass of dimpled flesh. What they needed was Snow White's stepmother's mirror, that unctuous creature from the Island of Dr. Moreau, to tell them they remain the biggest stud of them all. How could they look at this sweet young thing and not feel young immediately? It's a vicarious feeling, a positive contamination, being suffused with youthful aura that surely must be robust enough for both of them. How can a man not feel young when surely people speculate how energetic he must still be to satisfy the hungry demands of youth? You start to wonder whether this insecurity could be behind the Electra complex in all the local newscasts, too.

Life begins at . . .

So: When did the years creep up on me? I remember when I used to write an advice column, anonymously, of course. I'd blithely run through the letters that agonized over wrinkles, scars and crow's feet and pronounce, with all the worldly wisdom of my 25 years: "But you should be glad: Every wrinkle is a sign of character, every sag a badge of survival in this battle called life." Hah! Anybody tells me that today and I swear I'd claw her flawless complexion and knock her capped teeth off.

Some years back, my 6-year-old son asked me how old I was. When I told him I was 40, he was aghast. "Does this mean you're going to die soon?" he asked, fear in his eyes. To his preschool eyes, 40 is ancient, one foot in the grave, ready to croak. I want to tell him that life begins at 40—but so does a lot of other things: The talk about change of life, HRT (not that I know, of course), which concealer works best, how even your toe nails will curl and betray you, how those mothers in TV commercials must have been wed at 10, how good food of luscious memories has become the enemy, where to trade my slightly jaded soul for a shot at being 18

LIFE/ p.D2

ILLUSTRATIONS: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

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Scents and sensible summer hygiene

ELIZABETH Arden Green Tea introduces a range of icy cool, invigorating and stimulating bath- and body-care products to soothe, refresh and revitalize the mind and body this hot summer season.

Based on the feel-good fragrance of Elizabeth Arden Green Tea, the new Get Cool Collection combines citrus and herbal notes interwoven with green tea and minty peppermint to create products to cool, soothe and hydrate the body.

BODYCARE

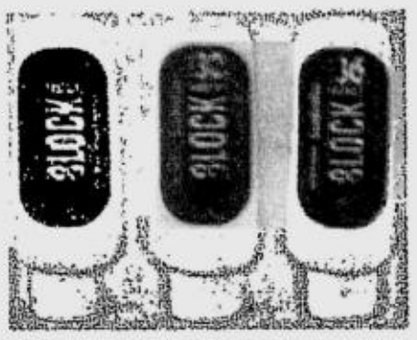
The new Get Cool Collection include: Green Tea Hydrating Body Slush 400 g (P1,350) and overall cooling and rejuvenating experience for the body combining green tea, chamomile and mint extracts for an immediate energy boost and intensive overall hydration; Green Tea Gritty Foot Polish and Smoothing Paddle 200 ml (P950), a rejuvenating and exfoliating foot scrub for the skin that is cool, smooth and fragranced; Green Tea Cooling Bubbles Foot Lotion 200 ml (P750), a refreshing blend of cooling botanicals to refresh and deodorize feet, infused with micro-bubbles to massage heels toes and soles.

Customers can also avail of the summer promo until supplies last. For every qualified purchase, there's a free Green Tea 10 ml fragrance.

Green Tea is also available in Scent Spray, Eau de Parfum Natural Spray, Refreshing Body Lotion and Energizing Bath and Shower Gel.

Elizabeth Arden Green Tea fragrances are distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp. and are available in all department stores nationwide. Green Tea body and bath products are only available in selected outlets in GMA.

BEACH FUN. Denenes, they say, is the scent you never outgrow. The Spanish cologne popular the world over, Denenes, offers a special promo. Every purchase of Denenes Natural or Muguet 200 ml spray cologne entitles buyers to a free beach ball. The beach ball comes in different attractive pastel colors: Blue, pink, yellow and green. The promo is ongoing until supplies last. Denenes is exclusively distributed by Rustan Marketing Corp., a division of the Rustan Group of Co., and is available in leading department stores and supermarkets nationwide.



CLEAN SKIN. Betadine Skin Cleanser is clinically proven to effectively fight persistent and stubborn acne like pimples, blackheads and whiteheads. Its strong antiseptic action eliminates acne-causing bacteria and microorganisms, and reduces excessive oils in the skin while maintaining its natural pH level. Betadine Skin Cleanser is safe to use. It is nondrying, nonirritating and nonstaining—a perfect solution to stubborn acne.

Betadine Skin Cleanser is manufactured by Pascual Laboratories Inc. under license from Mundipharma B.V., The Netherlands, and is available at all drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

EARTH-FRIENDLY. Acknowledging the refill's tremendous advantages, global consumer goods giant Unilever has introduced the refill concept in most of its products. A classic example is the Rexona deodorant line where Unilever pioneered in stick refills.

Rexona Stick Refill is the first of its kind in the country and in the world. It offers the same quality product for less the price of other deodorant sticks. It contains deosteral max which prevents germs, prevents body odor and keeps the user dry for all-day protection.

Rexona and refills are available in two variants, Confidence and Sports Stick.

SUN SHIELD. From Heathy Options, Asia's No. 1 natural products store, comes surefire ways of protecting yourself from the damaging rays of the sun—Sunbrellas Sun Block lotions by Jason Natural Cosmetics. The special formula of Sunbrellas provides the skin with soothing natural extracts like Aloe Vera Gel, Chamomile, Green tea, Vitamins C and E. Help protect, nourish and reduce premature aging of the skin through this full spectrum of skin protectors.

Sunbrellas Sun Block lotions by Jason Natural Cosmetics are suitable for both kids and adults. They come in varying degrees of sunscreen protection or Sun Protection Factor (SPF) to counteract the damaging effects of ultraviolet rays.

Also part of the product range is the Goodbye Bugs Block, which provides botanical protection against mosquitoes, fleas and other pests. Sunbrellas by Jason are available at Healthy Options, which may be found at 1/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L Ayala Center, Cebu City; LG/L SM City, North Edsa, QC; 2/L SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; 2/L SM Megamall B, Mandaluyong City.

FOR THE SOUTHERN PARTS. Man Fresh Masculine Intimate Everyday Wash is a breakthrough intimate personal care product for men's private parts only. It keeps sensitive skin free from bacterial infection, containing just the right pH level to do the job. Yet the preparation is gentle at the same time since its active ingredient is used in childcare formulations. Available in three sizes—60, 120 and 200 ml bottles—at drugstores and supermarkets nationwide, Man Fresh Intimate Everyday Wash is part masculine hygiene line from The Rogemson Co. Inc.

THE CHAMPIONS in the Professional Division with their models and Ricky Reyes, president of Filhair Coop, and the man behind the annual and well-attended Hair and Makeup Trends competition.

Ricky Reyes launches hair and makeup national tilt

THE 16TH Hair and Makeup Trends national competition will be held on May 23 at the PICC Reception Hall. The annual event is undertaken by Fil-Hair Coop headed by philanthropist, civic leader and TV host Ricky Reyes, who started the competition in 1984.

Hair and Makeup Trends 2001 expects to draw about 6,000 hairdressers and makeup artists all over the country. According to Reyes, who came out recently with the coffee-table book, "Hair Majesty," regional champions whom they have been selecting for the past few months will compete in the national level competition .

The overall champion wins P25,000 in cash, a trophy and other valuable prizes, plus the chance to represent the country in the 5th Asia-Pacific Hair Olympus in Seoul, Korea. This is under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Hairdressers & Cosmetologists Association, which Reyes also heads, The association has 18 member countries.

The first Asia-Pacific Hair Olympics was held at the Folk Arts Theater four years ago. The second was held in Hong Kong, the third in Taiwan and the fourth in Australia. The sixth is slated in Thailand and the seventh in Japan.

There are more than 40 commercial booths participating in the 16th Hair and Makeup Trends 2001, which will offer big discounts as well as seminars/workshops about beauty trends and new beauty products.

A bridal show will be staged by Caring Cosmetics from Indonesia, which will launch its newest line of cosmetics and beauty products. A Hair/Fashion Show will be the finale of the 16th Hair and Makeup Trends 2001. But while the competition is going on, there will be seminars on the latest haircutting and makeup techniques simultaneously.

There will be the usual categories in the junior and professional divisions. There are also new categories like the Ladies Cut and Styling, Commercial Makeup and Bridal Makeup, and Classical haircut for the professional division. Hairdressers will create a haircut for office people and executives using only subdued and darker side of colors.

For the men's division, the old categories will remain but a new one, Men's Cut and Blow Open Style, will be launched. The Fantasy Makeup's theme is "Legend of the Seas," from where they will make out their own appropriate colors.

The champion in the various categories will win P10,000 each plus trophy and other prizes. In the junior division, the champions will receive P5,000 each while the overall champion will get P15,000.

SEN. Ramon Magsaysay, Jr. cutting the ribbon.

How to guard against tress stress

IT'S the season when your hair needs all the help it can get for all that exposure to sun, sweat, salt and sand. Here are some smart hair dos and don'ts to keep your locks healthy, happy and looking good:

- Shortcuts. The bob is back. Short hair is always in because it is so wonderfully low-maintenance: Think "unbearable lightness of being." For those with medium to long length hair, keep your locks neat by wearing it in pile or tying it at the back with a chic hair clasp or band for a tidy and glam hairdo, pronto.
- Easy on the gunk. Wearing too much styling aids on a hot summer day is like conducting the day with a helmet on. Go natural for a change and give your hair that much-needed break this summer break. Too much gunk, summer sweat, plus the city's grime equals sorry-looking hair.
- Hats on. Like the rest of your body, your hair needs to be protected from scorching sunrays. The sun is at its harshest between 10 a.m.-3 p.m., so do not go sashaying outdoors if you can help it. When going beach combing, make sure to wear a vibrant-colored, stylish bandana on your head. That ubiquitous baseball cap will also do the job, if you want a decidedly *japorms* look that's also safe at the same time.
- Hair-drate. The harsh summer sun can cause your locks to be dry and dull-looking. Give your crowning glory the best and most affordable tender loving care it deserves this hot, hot season.

Hair Glow line of hair-care products was formulated by leading manufacturer Rogemson Co. Hair Glow Super Shine Hair Dressing and Conditioning Lotion is a nonsticky, cool moisturizing formulation that de-stresses your tresses and pampers your hair from roots to tips, giving it a deep sheen minus the heady and warm after-feel.

The Hair Glow Hair Dressing Lotion for Men, with a musky, masculine scent, makes hair easy to control and leaves hair looking polished without the greasy feel. It is available in two ultra affordable sizes.

Hair Glow Daily Care Hair Dressing and Conditioning Lotion moisturizes and conditions hair every day with its gentle yet potent formulation.

For best results, of course, keep to a balanced diet and a less stressful lifestyle.

HAIR Glow line of hair care products

Life begins at 40 . . .

(From page D1)

again.

The pictures are worse. Whoever said photographs don't lie don't know about bad lighting and bad hair days. You know what I mean—those pictures that ruthlessly expose your triple chins as if to suggest a solution to that giant rip in the ozone layer. What about those outing photos that your hooligan kids have wickedly captioned, "beached whales"? I once requested a friend to take my picture but to make sure to crop my second chin out of the frame. Wise ass, she had my face perilously perched on the bottom border, cut just above the offending flesh (you know who you are).

Fortunately in such instances, just before I fling the negatives at the grinning photo clerk who, I swear, is measuring my waistline (all three of them) in one shot, I remember the words my mother, bless her 70-year-old self, told me. "Keep those pictures no matter how fat or unsightly you look. Someday, you'll find them beautiful." She's right, of course. My old pictures suddenly seem God-sent, evidence that once upon a time, I had cheekbones and enough hair to block out the sun. And while my old pictures hardly do justice to my svelte figure, they are definitely easier to gaze at than the latest shots which, I swear, were tampered with by the photo clerk who must have worked previously as an NBI cartographic artist.

Does this make me happier? Well, I forget just now. Ask me again after I down these Glutaphos pills. And could you pass me that Retin-A, too, please?

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

Is it possible to text MEDICard for inquiries?

Yes, effective May 15 2001, you can now text MEDICard in case you have inquiries. Our Text MEDICard numbers are (0917) 751-8365 and (0919) 247-6240. For inquiry to be answered, texter would have to include in his query his complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach him.

Meet your MEDICard Team

If you need the services of a good ENT doctor, MEDICard highly recommends **Dr. Francisco A. Victoria.** After earning a degree in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas, he specialized in ENT focusing on Head and Neck Surgery. Sixteen (16) years of practice in his chosen field of specialization has made him a seasoned doctor, as evidenced by the number of patients he sees everyday. He is a member of several organizations, namely Phil. Board of Otolaryngology, Philippine Academy for Head and Neck Surgery and a lot more. Doc Francis claims that belonging to MEDICard's team of service providers has made his practice even more worthwhile and fulfilling. For consultations, you can visit him at Medical Center Manila. Clinic Schedule is Mondays to Fridays 9AM– 6PM.

Dr. Cecilia Encelan - De Guzman has been with MEDICard's service team for the past 5 years. She finished a degree in Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and later decided to specialize in neurology and psychiatry which has been her major goal when she took up Medicine. She is married to Dr. Endrik M. De Guzman, also a doctor specializing in Surgery. For consultations, you can visit her at Rm. 339 of the Medical Center Muntinlupa every T-TH-S, 8AM-12NN or at Rm. 305 of the Las Pinas Doctors Hospital every T-TH-S, 1–3PM.

Dr. Gianna A. Montenegro is one of MEDICard's OB-Gynecologist based at the Makati Medical Center. She earned her degree in Medicine at the Ateneo De Davao but decided to practice her profession in Manila. Doc Gianna has been with MEDICard for quite a number of years already and states that MEDICard has given her a good exposure in terms of medical experience. Should you wish to avail of her services, you can visit her at Rm. 8, G/F of the Makati Medical Center. Her clinic schedule is Mondays to Saturdays, 8AM–1PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. **BE HEARD AND BE READ.** You can write **DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA** at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399. Look for Ms. Joy Mendiola / Ms. Milen Ruiz. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

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Paying it forward: A real life story

BY PINKY C. ROXAS

WHEN Michelle Sison was told that she had ovarian cancer, she was only 11 years old. Her mom, Cristina, hoped the diagnosis was a mistake, and brought Michelle to three hospitals. The Philippine General Hospital confirmed that she had a tumor growing in her ovary as shown by the CT Scan and X-ray. An operation was required followed by several sessions of chemotherapy. All this started in August 1999. Fortunately for Michelle, after the operation and the chemotherapy sessions, she beat the C out of her body.

I met Michelle and her mom in February last year when a group of us volunteered at the PGH to grant the wishes of children who were either terminally ill or had been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. The Children's Cancer Foundation has been doing this for the last four years for the pediatric oncology patients of PGH. Its mission is simply to bring special events into the lives of children with terminal illnesses. So far, the activities have consisted of summer outings to Enchanted Kingdom, the granting of special wishes and Christmas parties. We believe that part of the cure is not just the medical treatments but also the well-being and happiness of the children. Even if it only seems temporary, the effect is pure joy. The memories last forever. All those who have sponsored a child will attest that it takes so little to make a big difference in someone's life.

Take the case of Michelle. Her wish was simply for a new dress and shoes. Ninang Ria happily obliged and shopping was a breeze as she had two daughters who were about Michelle's age and size. They met at PGH where Michelle's wish was granted and Ninang Ria had several outfits for her. Ninang Ria went even further and assisted Michelle in some of her chemotherapy sessions. Thanks to her act of generosity, mom Cristina learned that people do care, and would later on do the same for the other fellow patients at PGH. By the end of the year 2000, Michelle had finished her treatment and was on her way to remission.

PATIENTS and moms at Enchanted Kingdom for the summer outing of Children's Cancer Foundation

MICHELLE Sison (right), with her mom Cristina (left) and the author

All those who have sponsored a child will attest that it takes so little to make a big difference in someone's life

One good turn

But here comes the act that really touched my heart. Cristina was chosen to be a contestant on the game show "Pera o Bayong" on Dec. 6. Cristina walked away from the show a winner. She won P155,000, which would have easily provided comforts and extras to their family of five children. Her husband, Recaredo, earns a living as a technician servicing refrigerators and air conditioners. Instead of pocketing the money, Cristina generously donated the money to PGH to pay for the chemotherapy and medication of the other needy patients. One good turn deserved another.

Michelle is a sweet and happy 13-year old on remission. She follows a diet heavy on vegetables. Her message for other oncology patients: "*Magpagaling ng husto, kumain ng gulay para mabilis sila maka*-recover. *Susundin lahat ng*

CAROUSEL ride

sinasabi ng doktor at mga magulang. (Eat vegetables so your recovery will be faster. Follow what your doctor and parents say.)" As for Cristina, she continues to help other mothers source donations to enable them to pay for the chemotherapy sessions of their children.

Last year, Michelle was too weak to join the summer outing to Enchanted Kingdom. But this year, on May 3, she was well enough to enjoy the park with the other children. Her favorite ride? The Rio Grande Rapids, the latest addition to the park.

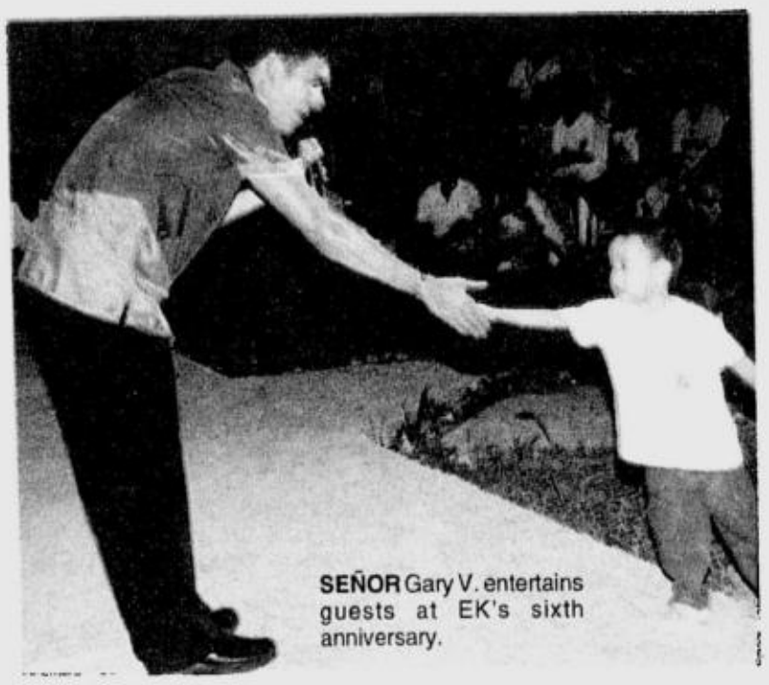
The summer outing would not have been possible without the sponsorships of Enchanted Kingdom, Domino's Pizza, Five Star Transportation, Red Ribbon and the friends and volunteers of Children's Cancer Foundation.

The carousel rides, dinosaur rides, bump cars, Ferris Wheel, hot pizza and spaghetti were the treats of the day. Definitely, the memories of the afternoon will last them a lifetime.

Call PGH social services at 524-4349 or 526-0298 if you can sponsor a child's medication or chemotherapy. E-mail roxas@info.com.ph if you want to join any of the Children's Cancer Foundations activities.

MICHELLE on the Rio Grande Rapids

An enchanting way to bond with the family



SEÑOR Gary V. entertains guests at EK's sixth anniversary.

THE WEEK-LONG celebration of Enchanted Kingdom's sixth anniversary kicked off with the launching of the world-class park's newest water ride, the Rio Grande Rapids, at the Spanish-themed Portabello Zone, to the frenzy of a rambunctious, colorful Mexican fiesta.

The celebration started at 3:30 p.m. with a Mardi Gras parade in front of the imposing Aztec-inspired Rio Grande Rapids, built like a fortress evoking both pre-Columbian and colonial *pueblo* architectures. To the Latin tunes played by a steel drum ensemble and the Arriba band, park visitors were treated to a *paseo* of *cumbancheros* (traveling minstrels) attired in traditional Mexican *poncho* and *sombrero* and lovely *señoritas* in their tiered Mexican gowns.

A pagan birth ritual performed by the Portabello Dancers, representing the gods of sun, rain, fire, wind and wisdom, prepared guests for the enchantment of the Rio Grande Rapids, named after the entire border of Mexico and the United States.

EK president and CEO Mario Mamon spoke about the importance of family entertainment in determining the park's rides. "This is why we chose the Rio Grande Rapids. It's great for family bonding. The raft seats eight persons so Mom, Dad and the rest of the family can have fun together in a thrill ride guaranteed safe and secure by EK," he said.

To emphasize the family theme, celebrity families were invited to launch the ride. Actress Gina Alajar came with her teenage sons, screen legend Armando Goyena brought along his famously big family (son Johnny Revilla and wife singer Janet Basco; daughters Maritess, Tina, Rosario, Cecilia and Pilar, and a bevy of grandchildren) and Major Noel Buan who came with wife Cielo and daughter Jenina.

After the short program came the traditional breaking of the *piñata*, which symbolizes prosperity and strength. The crowd eagerly awaited as guest, Jorge Concepcion, general manager of Hunt's-Universal Robina Corp., repeatedly hit the papier mache water buffalo hanging from the Rio Grande Rapids gate to release the goodies inside. HRC, the country's sole distributor of Knotsberry Farm products like Icee Pop Ice Lolli, Twistee Fruitshake and Gellee Pop gelatin snack, was the major presenter and sponsor of the Rio Grande Rapids launching. "We're glad to be part of this event because EK stands for family, the same values we stand for," said Concepcion.

EK's anniversary celebration did not stop with the launching of the Rio Grande Rapids. Festivities continued the following days with Gary Valenciano's "Gary V Goes Latin" successful concert at the park's new open-air concert venue (spotted were Education Secretary Raul Roco and family); a "Mayday, Mayhem," open-air dance party with the country's top DJs and a star-studded noontime treat from "Magandang Tanghali Bayan" telecast live from EK.

The highly anticipated 6th Annual Fireworks Competition capped the week-long celebration, with Victory Fireworks emerging as winner.

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Dead dad teaches mynah bird to call his name

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

A WOMAN e-mailed me recently to seek some explanation for a puzzling incident that happened in their home. A friend gifted her with a talking mynah bird. After a few weeks, the bird learned to say "hello" or "good morning," to the delight of the entire house hold.

Then one day they all seemed to hear the bird call out what sounded like the name of her father. They ignored it at first, thinking they might just be imagining things. But later the bird was pronouncing the father's name much more clearly and distinctly. There was no mistaking it this time. After the bird says the father's name, it would immediately add, "*Uy, ang galing mo*!"

So, she asked everybody in the house if any of them had taught the bird to say the name of her father. All of them denied having done so. Her dad had been dead for six years and no one calls him by his name. They all referred to him as "Daddy" and none of the household helpers were yet employed by them when he died. So this puzzled letter sender asked me what could be the explanation for this unusual incident. Who taught the mynah bird the name of her father?

The answer is obvious to me, but I doubt if everybody will agree with it. I am sure her father taught the bird how to say his name. He must still be visiting the house and watching over his daughter and her family. What adds credence to this is the fact that, according to her letter, her husband saw her father sitting in a sofa in their living room one evening after coming home from the hospital.

Stories of ghosts performing certain physical activities and affecting physical objects are quite common. The only problem is that very few ever get reported in the mass media.

For example, I've heard documented stories of a ghost (a) ordering her own funeral gown from a dressmaker, (b) signing a check voucher presented by a secretary who did not realize she was talking to a ghost, (c) punching in his own time card as he reported for work in a factory, or (d) signing his name as present during a roll call in congress.

Negative spirit

Lysander E. Canlas, my wife's former classmate in UP Prep who is now living in New Jersey, e-mailed her the following queries to ask me:

"What makes a spirit negative? There are many tales about spirits possessing humans for negative purposes. I've never really understood why a supernatural being would want to possess a mere mortal for negative purposes. If they inhabit a world that is superior to our world (the literal definition of supernatural), why would they condescend to our world? Are they like the so-called gods of ancient cultures who suffer the same character frailties as we do, only they possess supernatural powers?"

What determines whether a spirit is negative or positive is its consciousness. A human being does not become a saint or angel the moment he "sheds off his mortal coil," to use Shakespeare's words. If he is negative, jealous, hateful, revengeful or angry in life, he will still be the same after death unless he wakes up to higher spiritual truths in the after-life.

Furthermore, a person who dies a sudden death may not be aware he is already dead, and even if he is, he may refuse to accept it. And therefore he may remain earthbound for a long time, in which case he may still show himself to the living long after he is buried.

For example, it has been reported that Elvis Presley, who died in 1972, still stops motorists and hitchhikes to where he performs in Memphis, Tennessee up to now. He is not a negative spirit, just like the father who taught the mynah bird of his daughter to say his name. He simply wants to experience earthly life again and cannot detach from it.

The spirit world is neither superior nor inferior to earth life. It simply belongs to another plane or dimension of existence. And there's really no gap between these dimensions. The dead is always with us in one way or an other.

It seems that psychic vampires and other opportunists have invaded cyberspace. Here's an e-mail from an innocent young woman who fell victim to psychic manipulation:

"I had a strange encounter with a man while chatting in cyberspace. He told me he was a latent *psi* vampire and told me so many things relating to that. Most people around him get sick and his mother died last year during his so-called awakening.

"He said I'm an infant and he is looking forward to meet me to enhance my *psi* abilities. When he performed something while still on the Internet, I suddenly got dizzy, had difficulty breathing and my sight turned gray. He told me to take 20 deep breaths or just walk away from the PC I was using. When I'm ready I can go back to my seat.

"I told him I was ready, then he asked me to extend my right hand and touch the monitor because he was going to give me some energy. It worked and I started to feel better.

"Do you think I'm in danger now? Do you think he's done his 'feeding' during that exercise, that he fed on my prana/life energy? Is it still advisable to meet him in person? Please help me understand all this. I'm having sleepless nights now."

Avoid him

I advised this woman to avoid this person like a plague because he was obviously taking advantage of her innocence and vulnerability. Fortunately, she listened to my advice and never contacted the psychic vampire again.

I wish to thank Claro C. Cruz, second son of retired Supreme Court Associate Justice Isagani A. Cruz, for the following correction: "This is in regard to your April 24 column where you stated that 'Bhagavad-Gita' tells the story of Arjuna talking to Lord Vishnu in the context of communication with the spiritual world. Perhaps you may have been minisformed about the personalities involved. Actually, 'Bhagavad-Gita' is a conversation between the Pandava, Arjuna, third son of Pandu and Kunti, and his maternal cousin, Krishna, who is regarded by Krishna bhaktas or devotees as the Supreme Personality of Godhead.

"Krishna has often been depicted as an incarnation of Vishnu largely because of mistaken understanding of the hierarchy of Krishna's expansions and incarnations in the context of eternity. These were opinions of outsiders looking into the complex structure of the Vedas without immersing themselves into the built-in method by which the Vedas are to be understood, through the unbroken line of spiritual teachers passing on the teachings to their disciplines. The result is the pantheistic view of Indian religion today rather than the monotheistic presentation of the Vedas. In truth, Krishna is the origin of all expansions and incarnations of God, Vishnu included and this same truth is revealed within 'Bhagavad-Gita' itself, specifically within the 9th chapter."

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit my website at www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Skin care expert goes on a mall tour

WHAT can be more convenient than getting a no-commitments skin care analysis, consultation, and treatments from dermatologists and aestheticians without the hassles of appointments and waiting-room woes? As a treat to its consumers, Extraderm Plus, the leading local brand of exfoliant and skin care, is giving its consumers another bonus—personal service through the Alagang Expert mall tour.

Running until June this year in at least 50 of the nation's largest malls, the Alagang Expert skin care clinic offers free facial skin analysis and advise from expert dermatologists and licensed aestheticians. Plus, for simply purchasing an Extraderm Plus set, walk-in customers get an expert facial treatment. Privacy is not a problem as the Alagang Expert mobile clinics are designed to allow its patrons of a cozy and warm atmosphere.

Now on its last leg of its Robinsons Place Manila tour, the clinic continues to draw a daily crowd. "The consistent numbers of patrons who turn up for this service, regardless of the venue, is a clear sign of the public's growing consciousness of the importance of expert facial skin care," says Extraderm Plus brand manager Froilan Pamintuan. "This is what encouraged us to give the mall tour another year."

The Alagang Expert clinic is in SM Centerpoint until today and at Robinsons Galleria on May 21-27.

Growing old with grace

It's not easy to keep looking and feeling young, but look at the alternative

Age Erasers for Women—What You Can Do to Look Younger and Feel Great
By the Editors of Prevention Magazine Health Books and the Rodale Center for Women's Health
Bantam Books, 1997, 786 pages

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

REVIEW

AGING, this book begins, is something that we do to ourselves. It's the mindset that allows us to veg out in front of the television, eat high-fat foods, skip vegetables, bake in the sun and forget to play and challenge ourselves. We see amazingly agile 60-year-old women who run marathons and attend Pilates classes. There are 50-year-old grandmothers with naturally flawless skin, untouched by plastic surgeons. We find out that it is not a state of health that came to them overnight. They started caring for their bodies in their 30s and 40s when the hallmarks of the aging process were yet to set in.

And then there are the women who would go to great lengths to preserve their youthful countenance. For them "Age Erasers" is a beauty and health bible packed with loads of information and guidelines to help women, whatever the age to look younger and feel greater.

Biology of aging

As the title of the book suggests, everything here is dedicated to a woman's physiology and psychology. The first part of the book describes in detail the aging process a woman undergoes

A woman's skin, it says, may begin to wrinkle (on the forehead) as early as 20 due to accumulated sun damage. In the 30s, it may wrinkle between the eyes, and by age 40, crow's feet begin to appear. By 50, wrinkles will have started at the corner of one's mouth. Skin will grow thinner, drier and less elastic with time, mostly due to a dwindling supply of connective tissue and estrogen that begins in the 40s.

A woman's cardiovascular system begins to slowly but steadily decline in delivering oxygenated blood throughout one's body during exercise after the age of 25. Typically, the book says, a woman's aerobic capacity drops 5-10 percent a decade, between the ages of 25 and 75, which is why we get winded easier as we get older. Systolic blood pressure—top number on a blood pressure reading—increases by about 20-30 percent between the ages of 30 and 70.

Stiffness in the knees, hips and neck begins somewhere in the 40s. It gradually gets worse until your doctor diagnoses it as arthritis somewhere in your 60s. The disks between a woman's vertebrae begin to degenerate somewhere in the 70s. And as for metabolism, beginning at the age of 20, the number of calories a woman's body needs gradually declines. By the age of 70, the body needs fewer than 500 calories a day.

Stopping age robbers

Does this scare you? Drain you of hope? Fret not, the remainder of the book provides readers with more than a hundred antidotes, tips and guidelines for women to combat the hallmarks of the aging process.

Mary M. Gergin, Ph.D. associate professor of psychology at Pennsylvania State University's Delaware County Campus, says, "We need to liberate ourselves from outdated notions of aging. We need to be unafraid and daring and willing to take risks. And we need to be willing to break the mold of aging." Once we are able to do this, Dr. Gergin says, we can then choose the appropriate age erasers to suit our own individual needs.

The second part of "Age Erasers" is devoted to various snippets, articles and tips on the Age Robbers and how to stop them. Concise and comprehensive, they cover a gamut of topics ranging from age spots (what to when the damage is done) to biological clock (ticking toward wisdom), caffeine (beware the Java jitters), double chin (going neck and neck with aging), hair loss (winning over thinning), memory (forget this myth of aging), premenstrual syndrome (getting along in spite of it),Type A personality (this "A" is for aging), worry (don't agonize, energize) and wrinkles (draw the line on early lines).

Easy to read and written in layman's terms and with great wit, the book briefly describes each age robber and gives suggestions on how to stop or capture the thief.

Women with cellulite (it's fat and nothing but), take heart. Donald Robertson, M.D. medical director of the Bariatric Nutrition Center in Scottsdale, Arizona, says that "Ninety-nine percent of women develop some dimply fat after age 30." Though part of the problem can also be attributed to genetics, much of it is simply due to aging when sometime in a woman's 30s a natural drop in estrogen, combined with sun damage over the years causes the skin to lose its elasticity. Several options are then presented, including liposuction and anti-cellulite products.

Though many women may not be able to avoid getting cellulite, they do not necessarily have to keep it either. "Because cellulite is fat," the book says, "And like other forms of fat, you can dump it." Women can work it off, pump some iron, ditch the fat in their diet, knuckle under or camouflage it.

Boost your youthfulness

The second part of the book addresses the physical aspect of aging, while the third part deals with age erasers that enhance the psychosocial aspect of a woman's aging process, from altruism to religion and spirituality.

In the section on relaxation, Dr. Robert Eliot, director of the Institute of Stress Medicine in Wyoming suggests snuffing out the smokes, whittling your weight, teaming up with carbs, writing down your problems, laughing and snoozing.

A treasure trove of advice to heed and exercises to perform, written in a light and breezy manner, this is one book every woman should have on her night table to refer to time and time again as a roadmap of the journey to old age. With grace, a woman can do it with grace.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@ inquirer.com.ph

Workshops to gain insights into the inner self

THE CENTER for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra) offers a two-day workshop on "Enneagram in Love and Work" on May 19 and 20, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The workshop will be conducted by Fr. Joby de Leon, S.J.

Participants will gain insights into the complex inner world of their spouses, lovers, family members, friends and coworkers, and ways to improve relations in love and in work. This practical application of the nine basic personality types is open to everyone who has attended a basic enneagram workshop. Call Emma at 434-5381 and 426-5368.

Due to insistent public demand, Nonoy Ozaeta offers another "Angel Workshop" on May 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants will learn how they can work more closely with their angels in refocusing their priorities and finding meaning in the events of everyday life.

Also ongoing are lessons in *qi gong*, *arnis* and yoga. Yoga classes are conducted by Liza Magsaysay-Dyogi 7:30-8:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mariel Francisco conducts *qi gong* classes 9-11 a.m. on Saturdays. Mon Rivera offers lessons on *arnis* 2-4 p.m., also on Saturdays.

Chacra also brings its workshops to organized groups of 10 or more participants.

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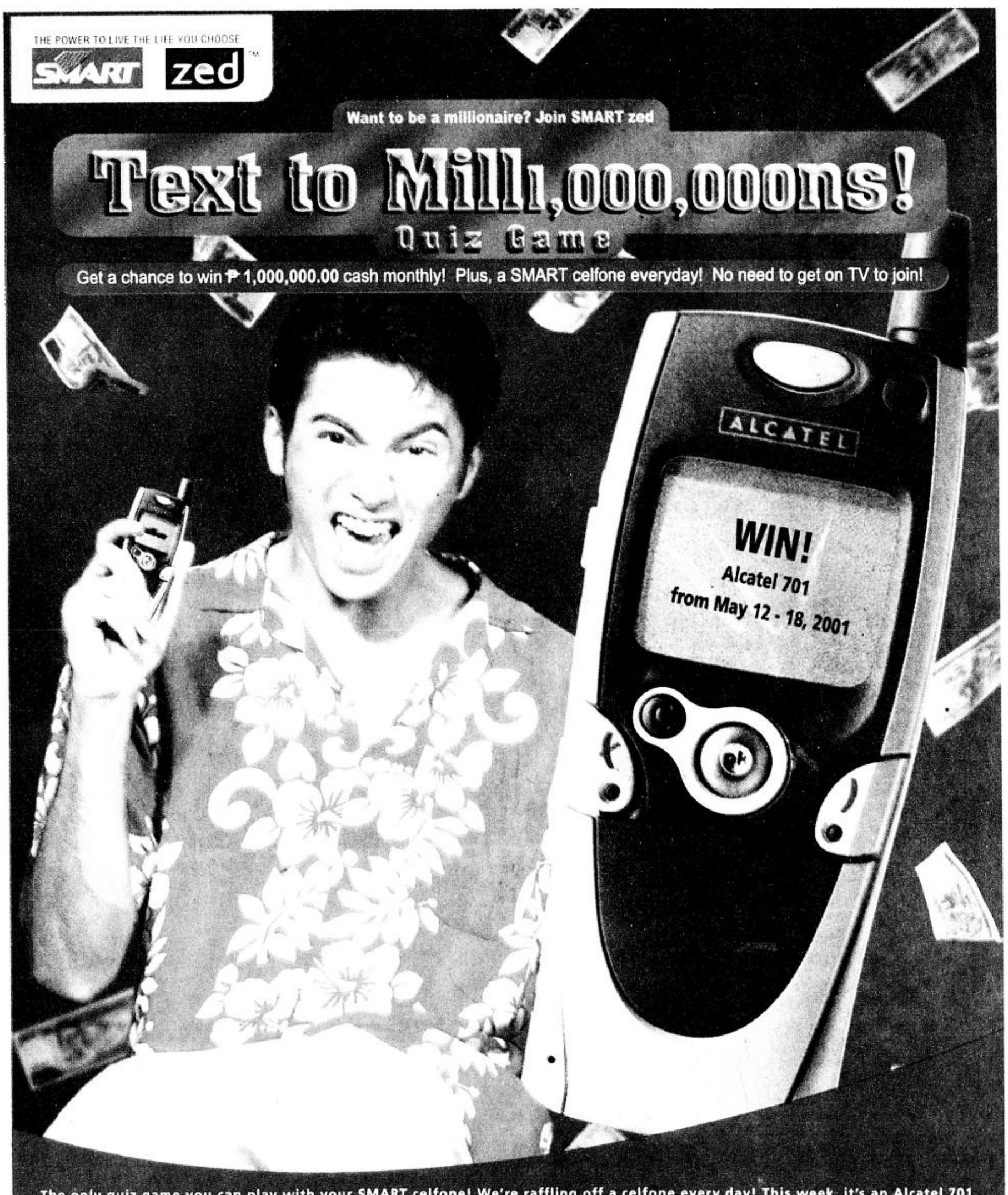

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Key in **QUIZ JOIN <full name>/<address>** and send to **288**. Example: **QUIZ JOIN Bob Sanchez/5 Marikit St. Quezon City**. Once you have registered you will receive questions starting the following day and every day thereafter.

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Key in **QUIZ <question number> <answer>** and send to **288**. Example: **QUIZ 1 C**. Send your reply back to **288** within the time limit. You will be informed immediately if your answer is correct or incorrect. If your answer is incorrect, you will no longer receive questions for that day.

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To qualify for the daily raffle you must submit correct answers to all four questions within the specified time. Perfect score for the day is considered 1 raffle entry for the daily and monthly raffle. The number of days you get a perfect score, the more chances of winning ₱ 1,000,000.00.

TO QUIT
If you no longer wish to participate key in **QUIZ QUIT** and send to **288**. Participants who quit but previously earned a raffle entry will still be entitled to the grand raffle draw for that month.

TO VIEW RAFFLE ENTRIES
Key in **QUIZ ENTRY** and send to **288**.

TO VIEW GAME RULES
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fitness

Preventing and treating exercise addiction

Developing a healthy body image as a child is crucial

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

IT is obviously much better to never become an exercise addict than it is to seek treatment because the road to recovery for an exercise addict can be as long and tedious as it is for a drug addict. In fact, it is a life-long recovery process.

Unfortunately, prevention is not as easy as it sounds because it should start in childhood. Since body satisfaction plays a large role in preventing exercise addiction, developing a healthy body image as a child is crucial. Body image is the "picture" of what we think our body looks like. If we have a healthy body image, we view our body realistically. We know our body has good and bad points, but we love ourselves just the same. If we have a distorted body image, no matter how good-looking we are, we are not happy with ourselves because we do not believe what we "see."

Your family is the first to shape your body image. If disparaging remarks are constantly being made about your body or if great emphasis is put on appearance, you may believe you are not a worthy person because your looks are not up to par with the standards of your family.

Many body image experts say that the culture we live in is probably the biggest factor that influences our body image. Everywhere you look today, you see pictures in the media of extremely slim, seemingly perfect bodies of male and female models. These people make up a small percentage of the population. They are not the norm. No wonder that eating and exercise disorders are on the rise.

Connection with anorexia

According to sports psychologist Jack Raglin, experts used to think that exercise addiction was a consequence or secondary symptom of anorexia or bulimia. In other words, the person with an eating disorder developed an exercise addiction because exercising excessively was just one of the ways of getting rid of unwanted calories. But because of several published studies, they have discovered it can be the other way around. An obsession with exercise can actually hasten the development of an eating disorder.

Another disorder that is related to exercise addiction is called "muscle dysmorphia." If anorexics think they are fat even though they are skinny, this is the opposite. Men who experience "bigorexia," as the disorder is nicknamed, think they are not muscular enough even though they have bigger bodies than the average male. Women with this disorder may have beautifully toned bodies but still think they are soft, flabby and fat.

Awareness is the first step

The first step is to be aware you have a problem. It's hard to fix something you deny even exists. Some exercise addicts are forced to face the existence of their dependency when they get injured. Other times it is friends or loved ones who notice the problem.

If you find yourself in such a situation, don't make comments about how much weight they have lost, how haggard they look or how many hours they are exercising. Do tell them you are concerned about their health. Raglin says it is important to be supportive and nonthreatening rather than confrontational. No one likes to be told they have a problem, but people are more willing to listen if you show how much you love them.

Seek professional help

Exercise addiction and/or eating disorders are not something to be dealt with lightly. The American Council on Exercise recommends a network of health professionals—fitness trainer, psychologist or psychiatrist, nutritionist and medical doctor.

The addict needs to cut back on his or her excessive workouts. A fitness trainer can help in designing a program that is effective but time-efficient. The trainer should be a good role model in terms of having a fit physique achieved through a normal-exercise lifestyle. The addict will not listen to someone who is out of shape and it is dangerous for them to be trained by someone who has the same obsession with exercise. The goal is to make the addict realize their bodies will not "deteriorate" if they don't do three hours of exercise a day.

The psychologist or psychiatrist will help the addict discover the roots of the problem (low self-esteem, feeling of unworthiness, etc). It's not enough to just stop the compulsive exercise behavior without finding out what are the underlying issues causing it. To do that would be like a drug addict stopping drugs through a detoxification program but without processing the problems that caused him to take the drugs in the first place. The end result is backsliding in a major way or a substitution of addiction.

The therapist will also teach the addict healthy ways to cope with stress without running away from life's problems. Oftentimes, exercise is not only the sole coping mechanism the addict knows, but it is also used to escape from or forget problems.

The nutritionist will teach proper ways of eating without gaining weight. This is very important since one of the reasons people abuse exercise is because of an exaggerated fear of becoming fat.

Finally, the medical doctor is necessary if the addict already has a chronic injury from overexercising. The doctor should work with the fitness trainer to monitor the exercise program.

Additionally, many experts also recommend joining a self-help group that employs the "12-step program" similar to Alcoholics Anonymous. Support groups give you a chance to share your feelings with other people who have the same problem. I am not aware of any groups in the Philippines dedicated solely to eating or exercise disorders. However, I know of one person who has been helped by joining Alcoholics Anonymous. This would make some sense since the roots of addiction are the same no matter what the substance being abused is, be it exercise, alcohol, drugs, gambling, overeating, shopping, etc.

Family support

The family is an important part of the recovery process both because of the emotional support family members can offer the addict and also because they are sometimes part of the problem. Dysfunctional family dynamics can be one of the reasons the addict has such poor self-esteem. If this is so, the whole family usually needs counseling and therapy, too.

Even though drug and exercise addiction have similar roots and symptoms, there is one basic difference. The recovered drug addict can never go back to taking drugs, even moderately. The recovered exercise addict can and should resume a moderate exercise program.

For past articles and exercises, go to my website at http://www.tinajuanfitness.com

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Tae-bo workout video released

THE NEWEST craze to sweep the world exercise circuit, Tae-Bo, blends an individual's own hidden strength with the ancient arts of self-defense, energetic dance and hip music.

The aerobics portion of this workout is fun, original and helps develop the upper arms as well as tighten the stomach while moving the legs. It also pumps up the heart, thus, resulting in a higher level of blood circulation.

Alaxan, the doctor-trusted, double-strength relief for body pain, arthritis and rheumatism, and MagnaVision Home Video have introduced a compilation of efficient and workable dance exercises as demonstrated by seven-time World Martial Arts Champion Billy Blanks in a video called "Tae Boxing Workouts: Kickology and Tae Boxing Jam."

"Through this easy-to-follow Tae-Bo workout, exercises can now be fun," says Susan Yumul, vice president of United Laboratories, Inc., makers of Alaxan.

The video is available in leading video shops and rental stations in the country.

Some Hollywood celebrities who are staying in shape with Tae-Bo are Brooke Shields, Pamela Anderson, Neve Campbell, Goldie Hawn, Paula Abdul, Magic Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal and Sugar Ray Leonard.

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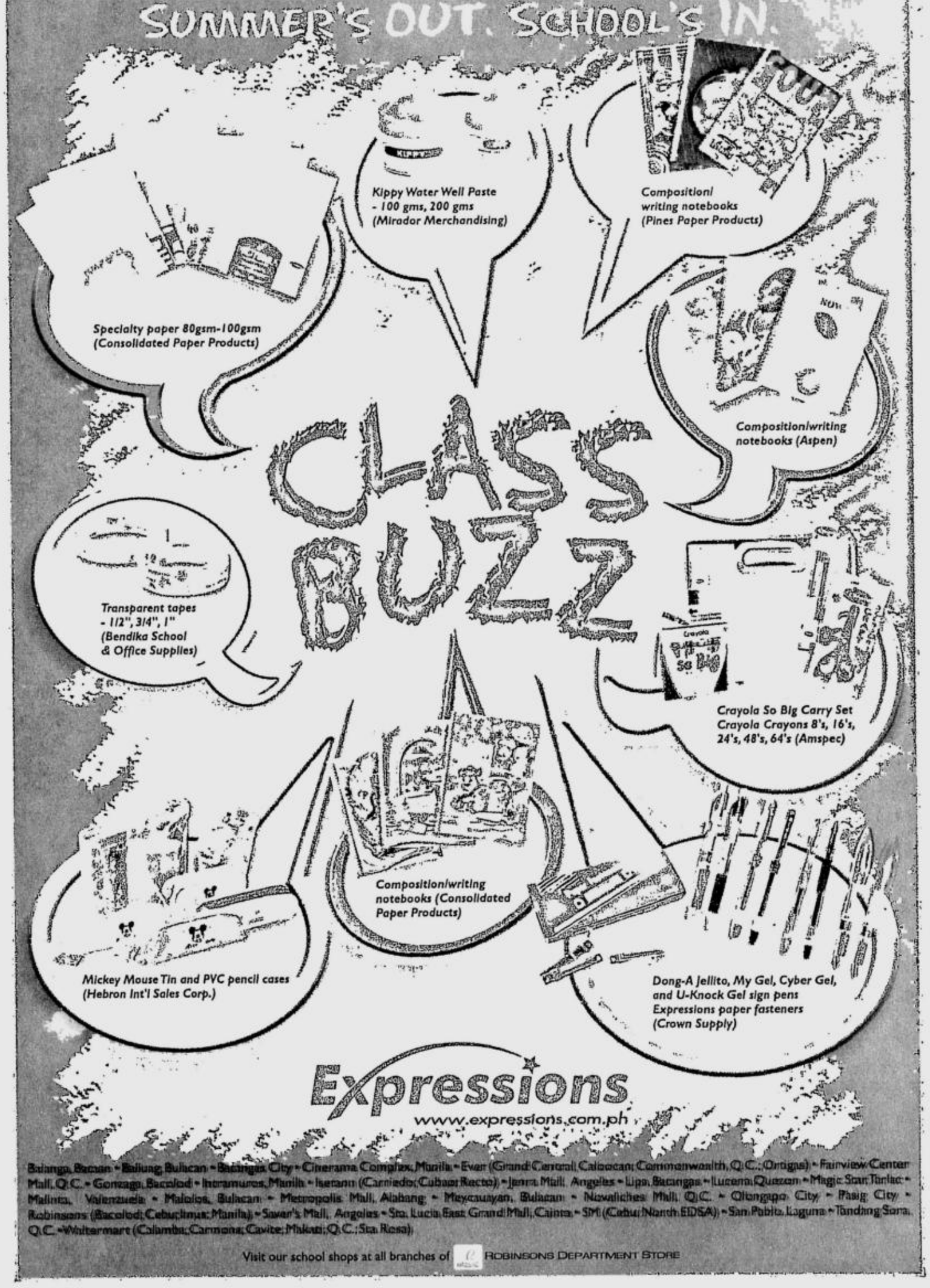

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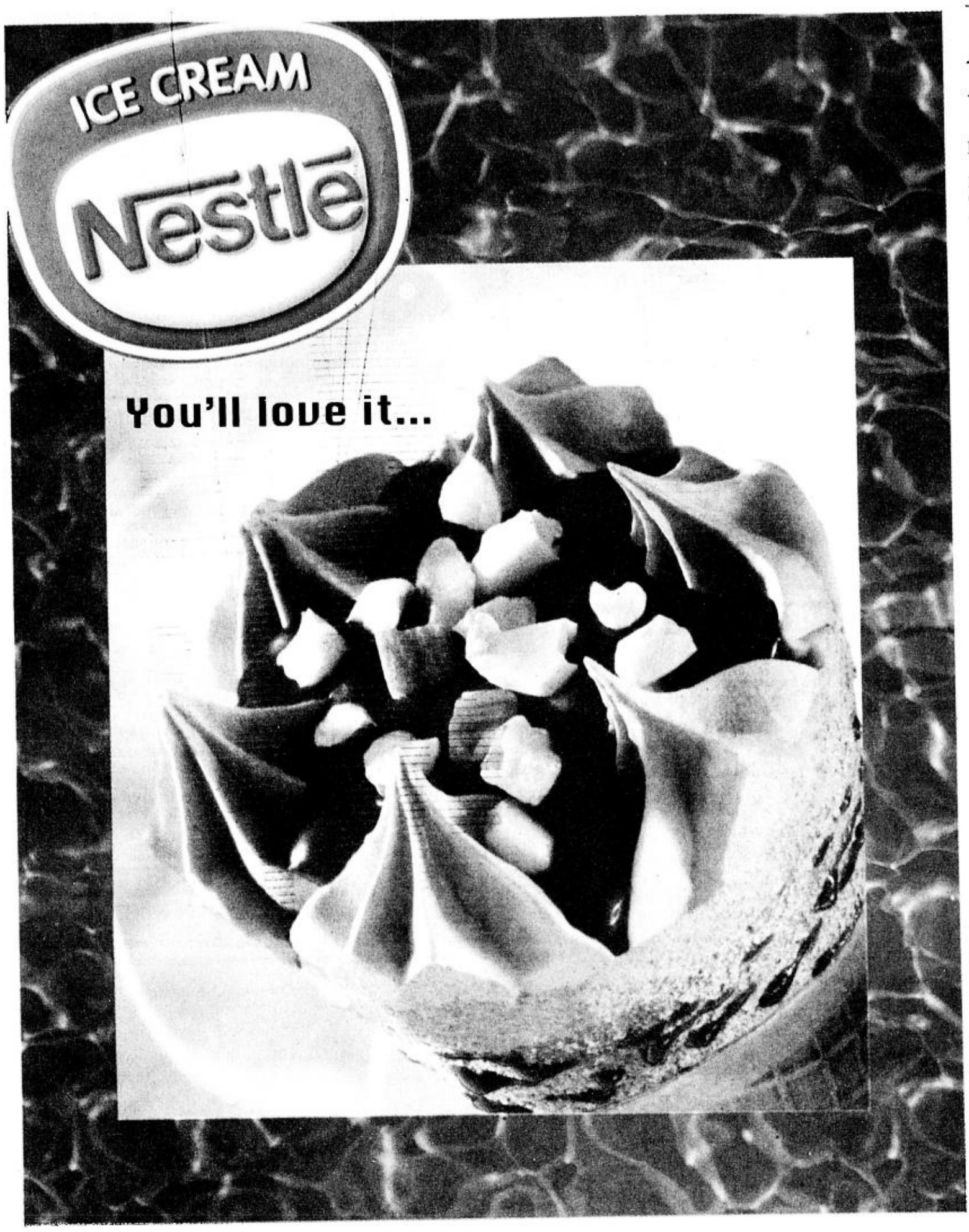


Ampalaya tea meets with sweet success

By Raquel P. Gomez

FIFTY-YEAR-OLD Lourdes Cabauatan, nurse-in-charge at Samahan ng mga Diabetikong Taga Aguinaldo (Sandata) in Camp Aguilando, has been living and coping with diabetes for 18 years. Her worst fear came when she had a stroke, a major complication of diabetes. She had to take many medications and had to watch her diet so that the sugar in her blood remained within the normal range.

Last year, a herbal product sales representative came to Sandata and gave Cabauatan and the other patients with diabetes samples of Charantia, a tea made from *ampalaya*.

Cabauatan took the tea religiously after meals and after several days she noticed she was perspiring a lot, an indication that her sugar level was going down. From her blood sugar measuring device, she took note that her blood sugar, which used to rise to 200 mg, stabilized to 110-120 levels.

The other patients who took the *ampalaya* tea also noticed the same results Cabauatan experienced.

The bitter-tasting *ampalaya* (*mamordica charantia*) is fast becoming the "promised cure" to diabetics under Sandata's care as many of them claim to suffer less from uncontrolled rise in blood sugar upon making the tea a part of their diet. More than 20 patients in Sandata are now taking Charantia.

The Department of Health, through the Philippine Institute of Traditional and Alternative Health Care (Pitahc), has been promoting *ampalaya* as an alternative treatment for diabetes. The *ampalaya* is part of the 10 "priority" medicinal plants the agency is tasked to integrate in the health care delivery system in the country.

Dr. Alfonso Lagaya, director general of Pitahc, says the capability of the *ampalaya* to lower blood sugar has been proven in a study conducted by the National Integrated Research Program on Medicinal Plants, the research arm of the Department of Science and Technology and the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development.

Private manufacturers are already making the tablet and tea form of the vegetable for easy consumption by diabetics. Charantia tea is distributed by Herbcare Int'l. Inc.

Herbcare chair, Lito Abelarde, who's also into trading, says he discovered the use of *ampalaya* tea in Mekong Delta, Vietnam, while conducting business there. He was always served *ampalaya* tea and every time he would come home, he would bring several packs with him, which he would give to friends with diabetes.

Abelarde says in India *ampalaya* tea is already used as a "sole" medication for diabetes. He says an Indian scientist, Dr. Pushpa Khanna, was able to isolate the active principle or ingredient in *ampalaya* which lowers the sugar in the blood. The active principle has been identified as Polypeptide-p.

Abelarde's Charantia tea is registered with the Bureau of Food and Drugs as a food supplement. It is sold in major drugstores and available in two packs: 70 g, which is good for a month's consumption, and 30 g, which is good for 12 days. To prepare the tea, one needs to boil one tablespoon of Charantia bits in five glasses of water for eight to 10 minutes. Abelarde says one should take about 2,500-3,000 mg a day to be effective. "The good thing about Charantia is it doesn't bring down the sugar level to dangerous levels," says Abelarde.

An estimated 4-5 million of Filipinos suffer from diabetes, a "lifestyle disease" affecting the body's metabolism that results in high blood sugar.

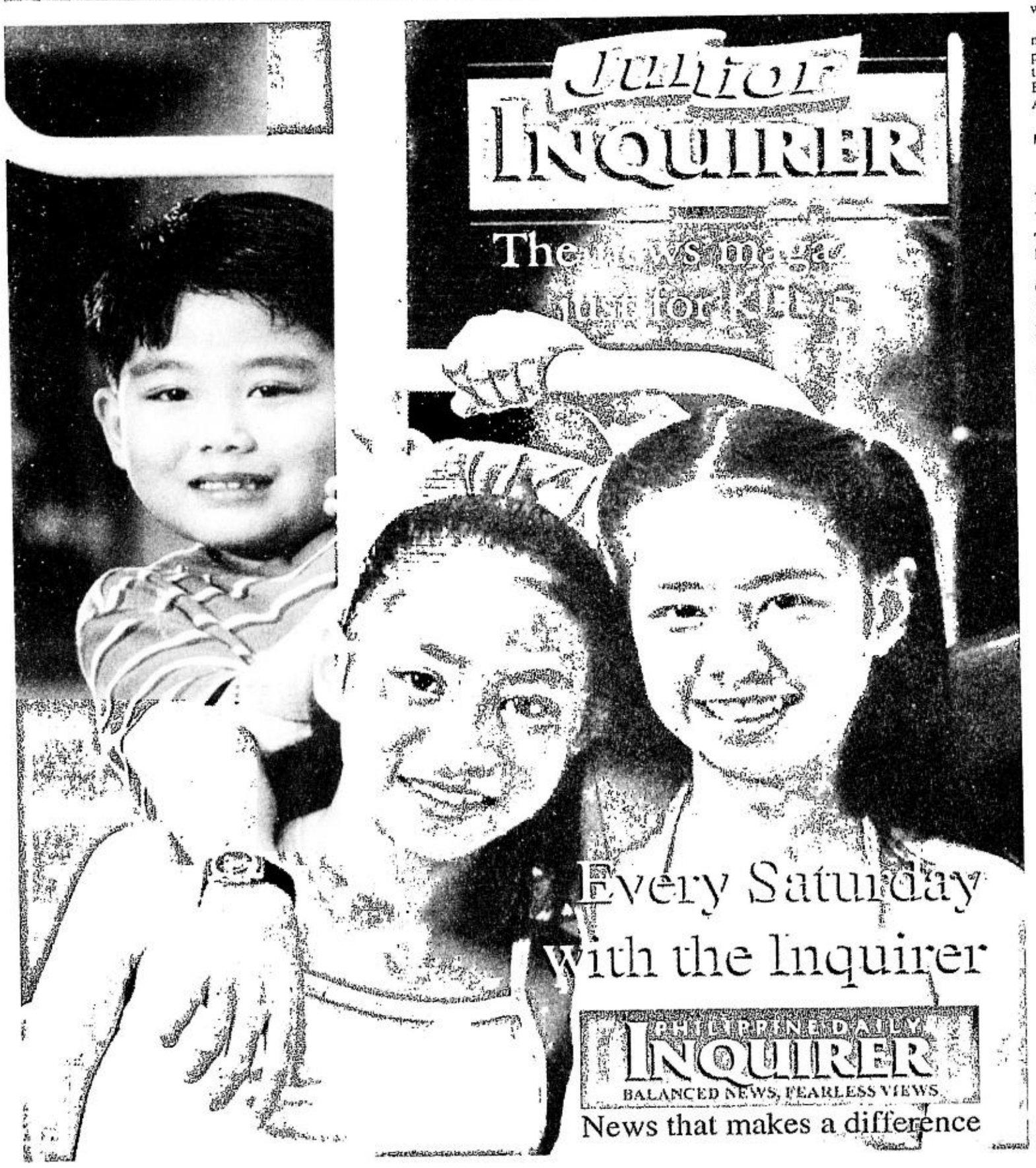
Link between diabetes and body fat to be discussed in symposium

TO unravel the mystery of diabetes, and due to public demand, Health From Earth Corp will be conducting a public lecture focusing on the ability of certain foods to eliminate or prevent diabetes. The relationship between elimination of body-fat and diabetes will be also be discussed.

An overwhelming number of medical trials, books and research paper will be available for review during the symposium to be held at Horizon EDSA Hotel, corner Pioneer and Boni Avenue on May 19.

The lecture is naturally appealing to those suffering from diabetes and obesity. Further, medical-health professionals and entrepreneurs are welcome to attend (to explore strategic partnerships and distribution opportunities). Certificates of lecture attendance will be issued when requested in advance.

While attendance is by reservation only, few free seats are still available by calling Health From Earth Corp Hotline at (02) 660-2290. You may e-mail healthph@eudoramail.com.



Treat diabetes before it causes vision loss

THE SECOND National Survey of Philippine Blindness conducted in 1995 estimated that about 1.47 percent of Filipinos suffer from blindness, many of them due to diabetic retinopathy. It is among the top six leading causes of blindness among Filipinos.

Diabetes affects the small and big arteries of the body, halting blood flow and creating poor supply of blood, oxygen and nutrition. It can cause kidney failure. It can create conditions for leg and feet ulcers, gangrene and amputation. It affects nerves, causing numbness and pains in the feet and weakens the immune system leading to infections. But perhaps its worst effect is on the eyes.

There are no symptoms in the early stages of the disease. Vision may not change until the disease becomes severe. The best way to control this disease is to find and treat diabetes early, before it causes vision loss or blindness.

Good blood sugar control will help prevent progression of retinopathy. Patients should also be encouraged to comply with the medical treatment regimen. Duration of diabetes is the major risk factor associated with the onset of diabetic retinopathy that causes blindness. This disease appears in one out of four Type 1 patients who have had the disease for 15 years.

Type 1 diabetes is diagnosed among patients younger than 30 years old. It is also called IDDM or Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus. Type II diabetes is NIDDM or Non-Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus. In Type I juvenile-onset DM, about 25 percent of patients have retinopathy after five years, 60 percent after 10 years and 80 percent after 15 years.

Treatable

Dr. Uy assures those who fear they may have the disease in its earliest form that diabetic retinopathy is treatable. The treatment comes in the form of laser therapy and/or vitrectomy. The risk of severe visual loss is said to be less than 5 percent with treatment.

Nonsurgical treatment uses the "gold standard," which is laser treatment. This is done three ways: Through panretinal photocoagulation (PRP) and/or macular grid and focal laser therapy. Dr. Uy's group, consisting of leading ophthalmologists who are members of the Viteroretina Society of the Philippines, observed that after seven years, only 25 percent of laser-treated eyes developed high-risk characteristics compared to 75 percent of eyes of which PRP treatment was deferred.

While diabetes has no respect for age, the disease called Macular Degeneration causes age-related vision loss. While it can affect some younger people, it is a leading cause of vision loss among people over age 65.

Care tips

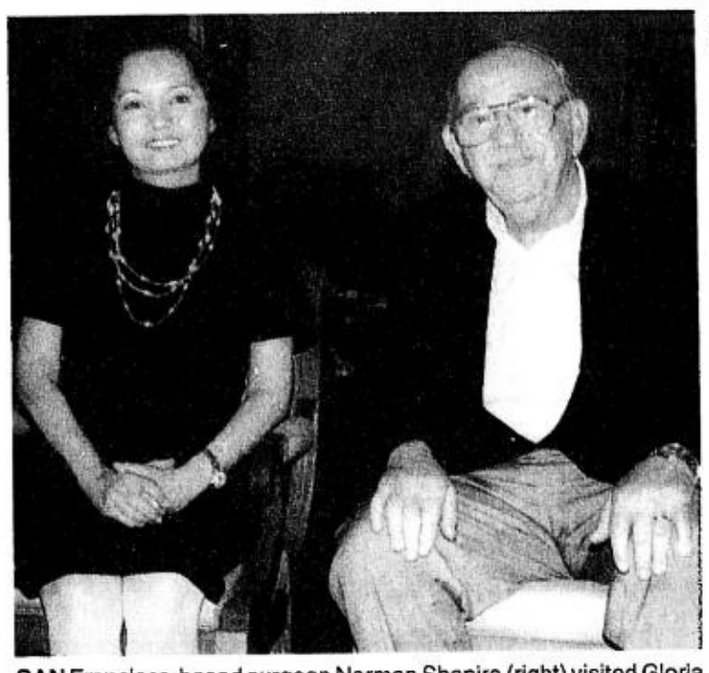
Evaluation of the macular involves taking your medical history, noting age, smoking history and nutrition. MD is more common among older, light-haired, fair-skinned people. A variety of tests may also be given to check the health of your macula, including dilated retinal exam, fluorescein and indocyanine green angiography.

Since MD may progress from "dry" to "wet" type, regular follow-up is essential to allow for early laser treatment of any leakage. Care tips include:

- Filter out "bad" light, referring to ultraviolet light by using special sunglasses. Increased exposure to UV light increases the risk of MD.
- After diagnosis, have regular follow-up visits to your doctor for possible repeat eye exams as well.

Laser treatment may be considered for treating "wet" Macular Degeneration. The highly-focused light dries up leaking blood vessels and prevents them from continuing to grow. There are risks and side effects your doctor will discuss with you. After treatment, an increase in blurring is likely, followed by a gradual improvement in your vision over several weeks. Frequent follow-up visits may be recommended.

Vision loss is tragic, but individuals can go through life with hope because the advent of the new millennium also brings with it promises of new types of lasers, retinal transplant procedures and other scientific advances.



SAN Francisco-based surgeon Norman Shapiro (right) visited Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in January, shortly before she became President of the Philippines, after his two-day surgical mission in the Bicol region ended.

They call him 'Manong'

FOR THE LAST 23 years, Norman Shapiro, humanitarian and doctor-healer, has been bringing medical missions to country, from Vigan, Baguio and the Bicol region to Aklan, Samar and Leyte.

He first brought his four-doctor team with him to hold a clinic in Bacolod in 1977. In 1993, instead of the annual clinics, Dr. Shapiro decided to organize surgical missions with Dr. Tony Abiog, president of the Philippine Surgical Society of Northern America.

"When you give people medicine, they're only okay for a month, but after that there is no means for them to continue with the medication since they don't have money," says Shapiro.

Unlike other medical missions, Shapiro and his team shoulder their own plane fares and bring their own equipment, operating light sources and even anesthesia machines. Shapiro's yearly visits serve as homecoming to the families of his US-based Filipino friends. They have adopted him as their own and have taken to calling him "*manong*."

Shapiro has treated patients with tuberculosis, hernias, thyroid conditions and cancer. He has also performed biopsies and mastectomies.

Shapiro's missions of mercy have afforded him a chance to enjoy the scenic beauty of the country.

US-based Pinoy doctors lend helping hand

THE SAVESIGHT Mission surgical team of Filipino doctors based here and the United States recently performed free eye operations on indigent patients in Bulacan under the sponsorship of Club Bulakeño.

The first part of the mission took place at the Bulacan Provincial Hospital where 11 indigent patients were operated on.

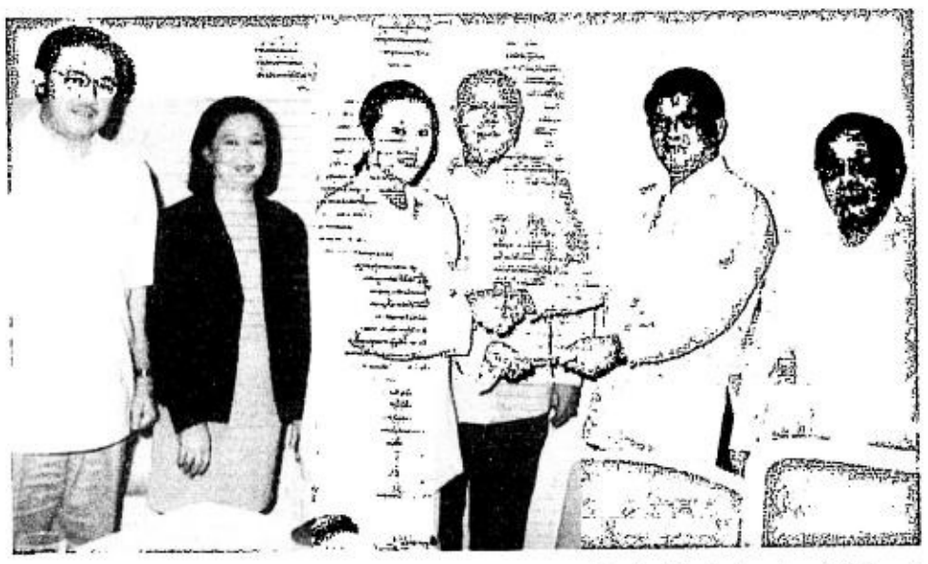
The mission's medical team also went to Cesario San Diego gym in Plaridel, Bulacan where 761 patients were treated by pediatricians, internists and family practitioners.

The volunteer doctors included three eye specialists from Columbia Presbyterian Hospital—Antonio Gonzales, Lindsy Farris and Simone Finzi—and volunteer doctors from the University of Santo Tomas composed of Jack Bautista, Bong Chua, Dodjie Magsino and Jenny Ko. The surgical staff included Reyna Cocina, Liza Pinzon, Gomer Gonzales, Noel Joy Binza and Francis Fernandez.

The Bulacan Surgical-Medical Mission is only one of several charitable projects that Club Bulakeño has lined up for this year under the auspices of presidents Nedy Tantoco and Sonny Tanchanco.

MAYOR Tessie Vistan, Dr. Antonlio Gonzales, Ollie David, Dr. Simone Finzi, Norma Osorio, Reyna Cocina, Dr. Lindsey Farris and Sonny Tanchanco. Second row, Dr. Francisco Reyes, Corge Reyes, Lucy Wycoco, John Gaddi and Siony Salvador

DR. Lindsy Farris and Reyna Cocina with patient



BELEN Lovina Ticzon-Martel (third from the left), chair of Belco Marketing Inc. (BMI) and concurrently executive vice president of Harrison Plaza and director of the board of Marsteel Consolidated Inc., concluded her term as general campaign cochair and chair of the Special Projects Division of the Filipino War Veterans Foundation Inc. with the presentation of BMI's donation of P725,000 to Filvets chair/president Gen. Renato S. de Villa, executive secretary to the President. Also in the photo are Salvador T. Clemente, Ophelia Ticzon-Clemente, Col. Emmanuel V. de Ocampo and Col. Juanito N. Ferrer. Martel's maternal grandfather, the late Don Primitivo "Tibing" Lovina Sr., organized and founded the Philippine Veterans Bank in 1962.

Yoga for cancer patients

ST. Luke's Cancer Institute will again hold a patients' forum on "Yoga Ananas" (yoga for cancer patients) on May 18, 2-4 p.m., at the Conference Room B, 14/F Auditorium, St. Luke's Cathedral Heights Building Complex, QC.

Invited instructor Dada Sudhananda will focus his lecture on yoga as simple and basic postures for better health. The objectives of this forum are to help balance the endocrine glands, revitalize the nervous system, control the emotions and calm the mind.

Participants are requested to wear comfortable pants and shirt, and to bring towels and mats. A minimum registration fee is required. Call St. Luke's Cancer Information Office at 723-0301 locals 5427/53.

Learn how to give CPR

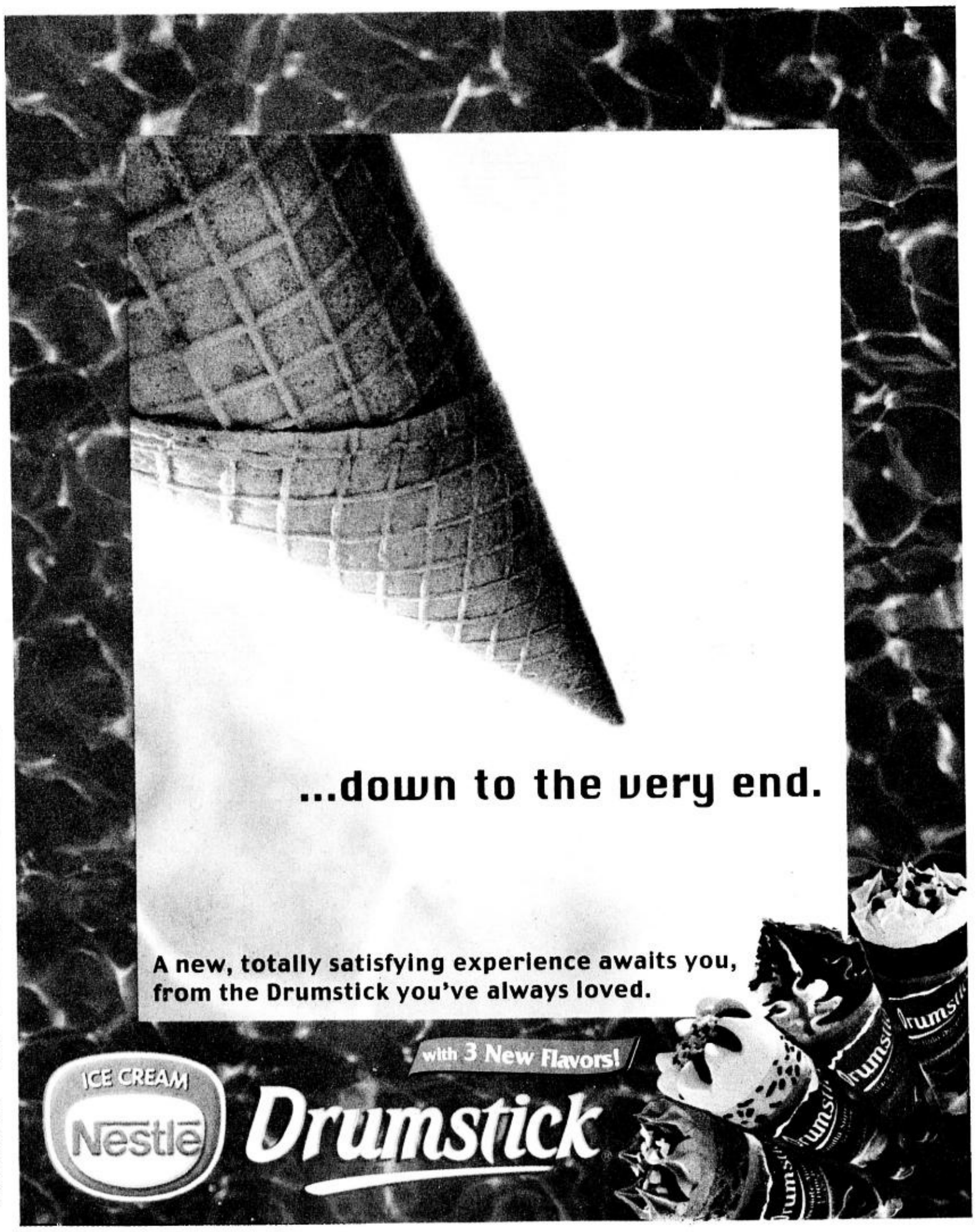
CPR, or Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, is an essential lifesaving technique that everyone should know. People whose heart and lungs have stopped need to have circulation restarted within four to six minutes. Any delay to the resuscitation could result to brain damage. Here are some guidelines for CPR.

- Determine if the victim is unconscious. If there is no response from the victim, always call for help.
- Position the person on his back. Kneel by his side and place one hand on the forehead and the other hand under the chin. Tilt the head back and lift the chin until teeth almost touch.
- Clear the victim's airway. Open the mouth and check for breathing by listening closely to his mouth and watching the chest for movement. If the person has stopped breathing, give four quick full breaths through mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Each breath lasts one to two seconds. Although this procedure requires training, in a true emergency, breath given even by an amateur is better than none at all.
- If there is no pulse and no breathing, get emergency medical help and then begin a series of chest compressions using the heel of your hand over the breastbone, again followed by quick full breaths with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Continue checking for the pulse and breathing and wait for help.

It is always worthwhile to get training in CPR and other life-saving measures from certified medical trainers. However, it is still best to prevent the attack through the recommended intake of Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids that come with every glass of Nestlé Omega Plus milk. Nestlé's Omega Plus Milk has the right amounts of Omega-3 end Omega-6 fatty acids that help lower the risk for blocked blood vessels and heart attacks.

TEAMWORK

Convince Novales (left) and Rey Trinidad (right) have joined Nutrition for Life Int'l. Phils. Inc. as vice president for marketing and special assistant to the president, respectively. Novales brings with him 25 years of experience in multilevel marketing. Trinidad was a top executive in the country's biggest television and communications network. Completing the NFL's management team is Marino Diomano (center), who has been with the company since its incorporation in 1997 and is currently vice president for finance and logistics. Mary Anne B. Vargas is NFLI Phils.' president and health guru.



Check in for fine dining

NONYA Popiah

FINE dining in a hospital?

St. Luke's Medical Center chef Robert Libunao recently prepared a spread for breakfast, lunch and dinner vastly different from bland, tasteless and unappetizing fare usually served in hospitals.

People who go to SLMC for executive checkups are treated with the proper care and pampering clients of five-star hotels are accustomed to. Only this time, they have a supervising doctor, a nutritionist and a full-time chef to attend to their dietary requirements.

In 1992, the SLMC assigned one whole floor for suites designed for patients who require total privacy and comfort. Today there are 35 of such suites.

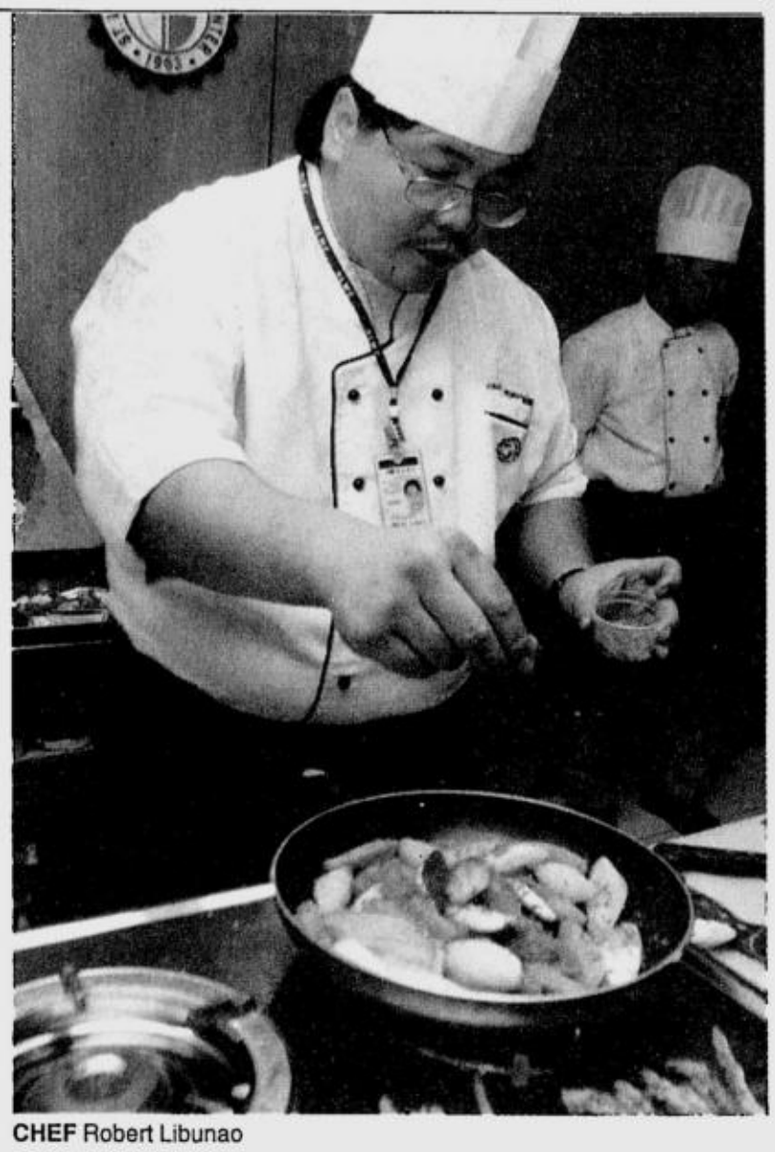
In 1995, a full-time chef was hired to work hand in hand with the hospital's dieticians in the preparation of highly nutritious at the same time appetizing food. The hospital even came out with food suggestions as contained in two menu booklets for patients who wanted various selections other than what is regularly served.

As emphasized by both chef Libunao and dietician Eloisa Villaraza, everything depends on the doctor's say-so. If the patient is on a restricted diet but craving for a dish like *kare-kare*, substitutes would be made, like the use of lean meat, not the fatty, high-cholesterol portions of beef and pork.

For patients who are on full diet, there is no problem as long as their doctor's give the go-signal.

Proper nutrition and quality of food are always the top consideration in SLMC, whether one is in a suite or a regular private room.

So if the patient or his family and guests desire to have Italian pasta, French chateaubriand or Japanese Teriyaki for dinner, no problem! The chef and his staff will prepare it, with the strict supervision of a doctor and a dietician, of course.



CHEF Robert Libunao

CHATEAUBRIAND

PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

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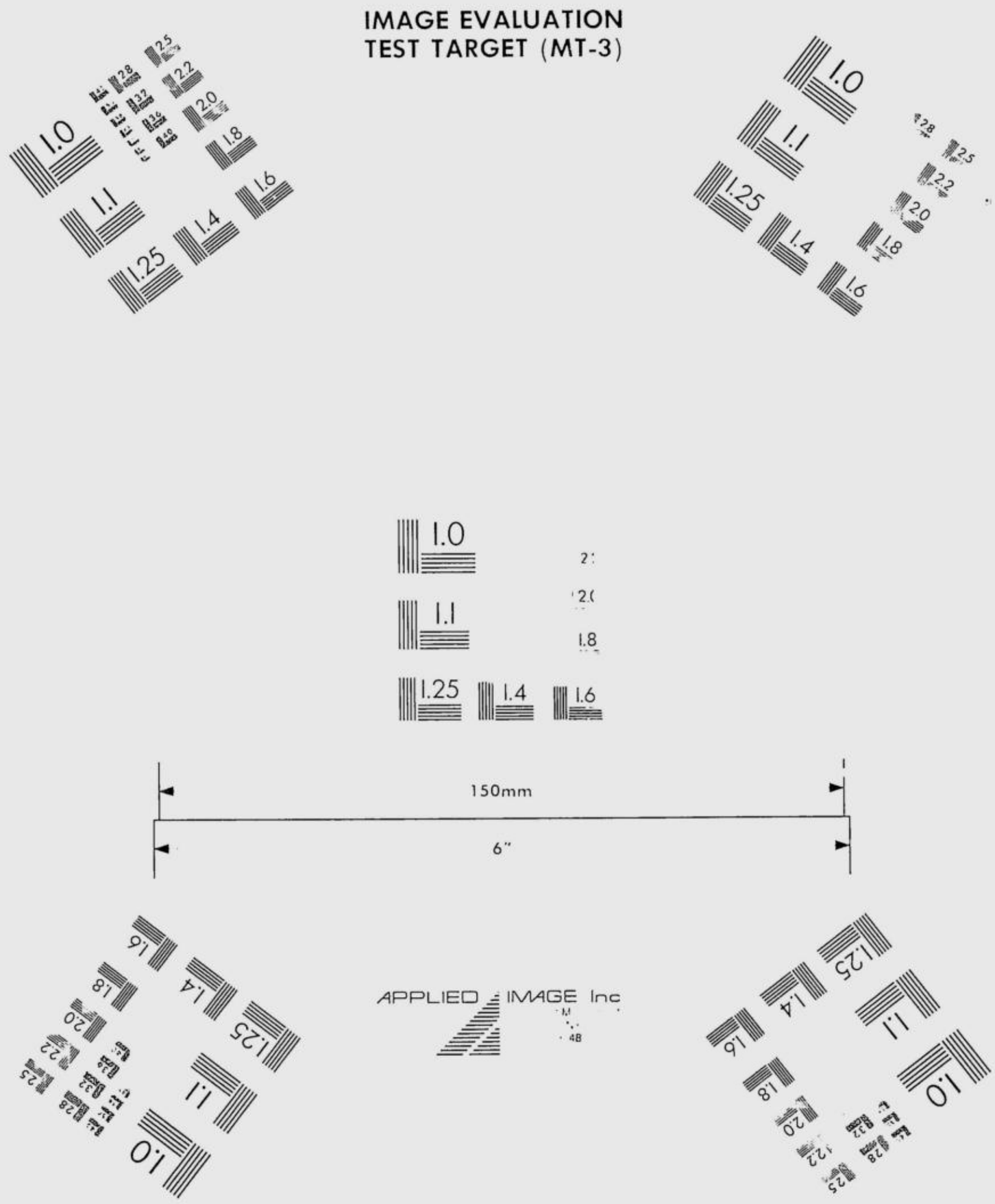
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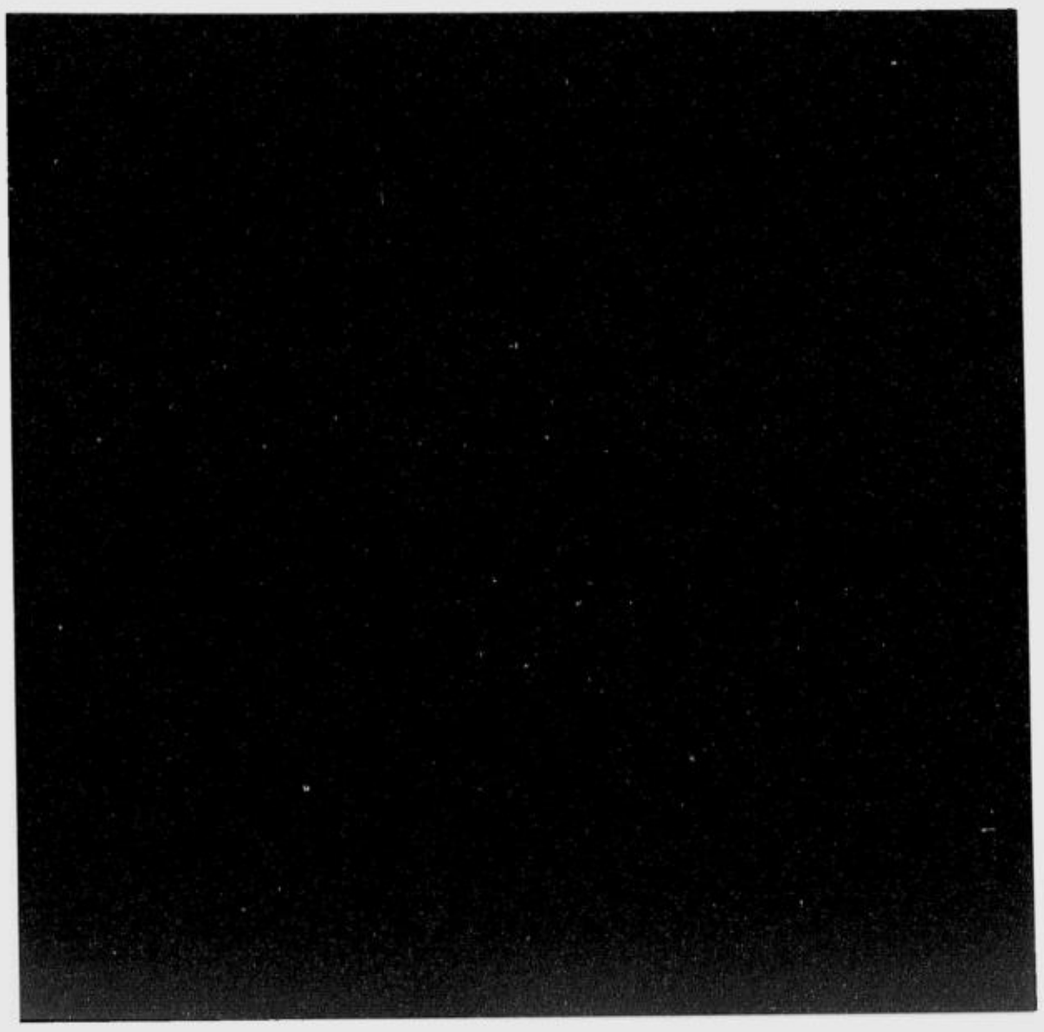

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FILMED: JUNE 2001

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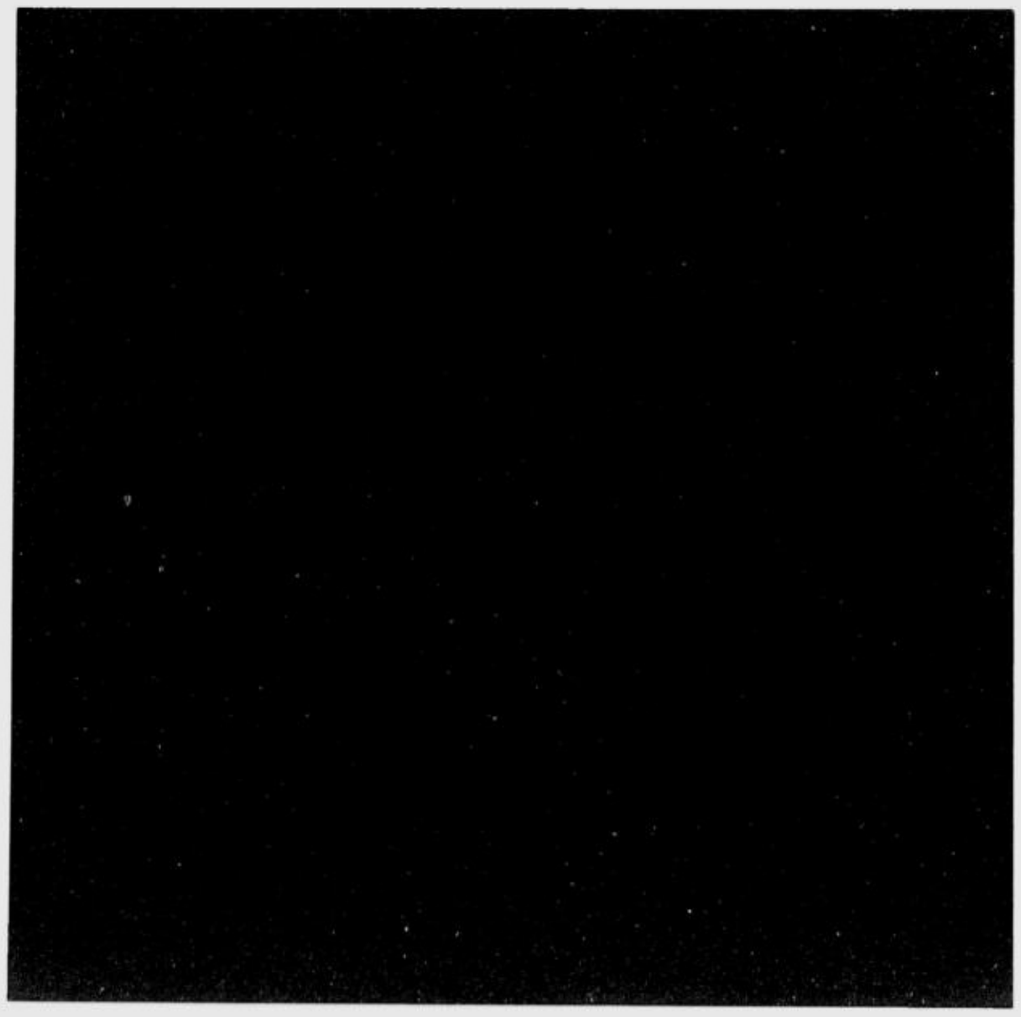
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

MAY
16 THRU 31
2001

REEL **261**



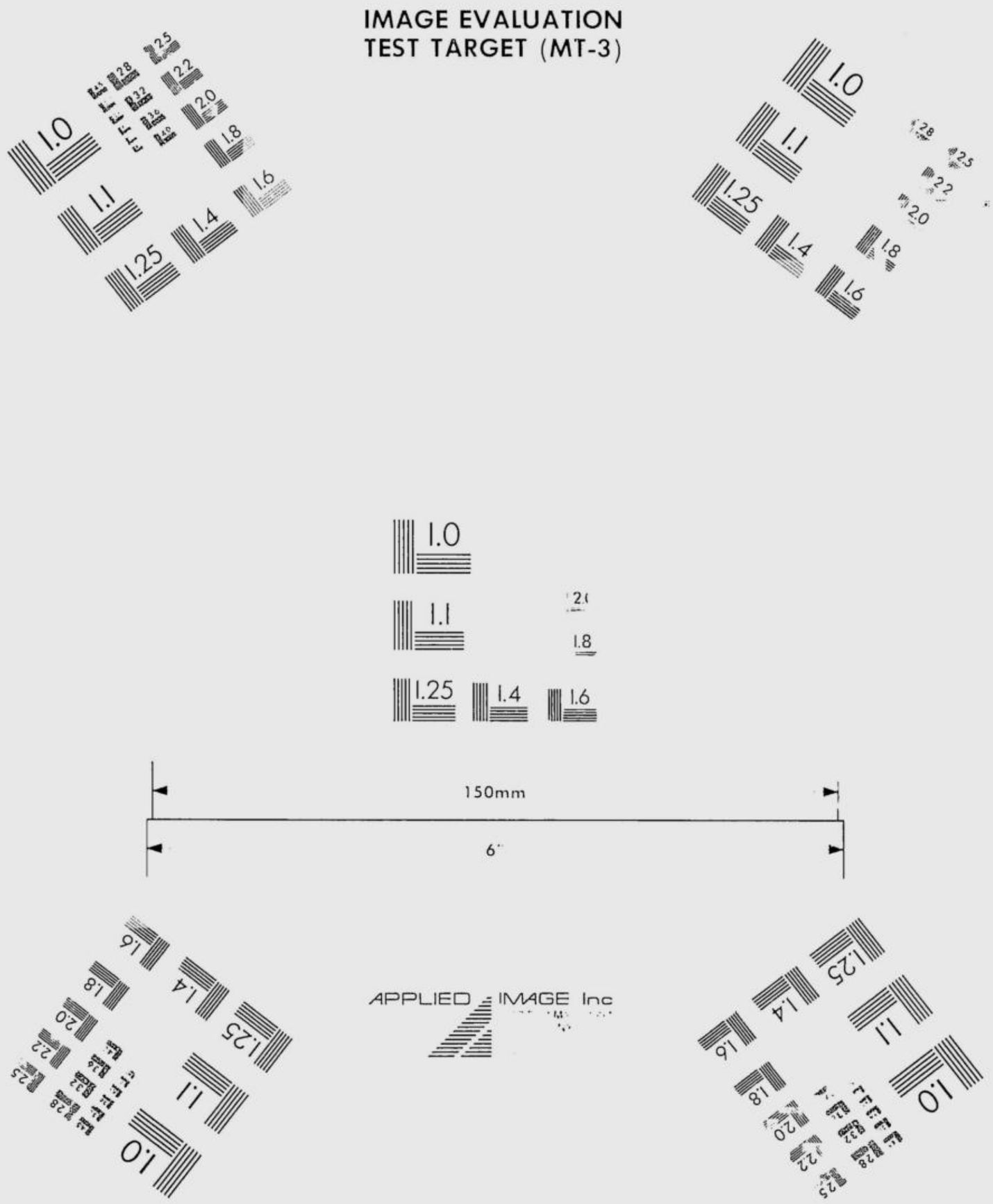


IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)
150mm
6"
APPLIED IMAGE Inc